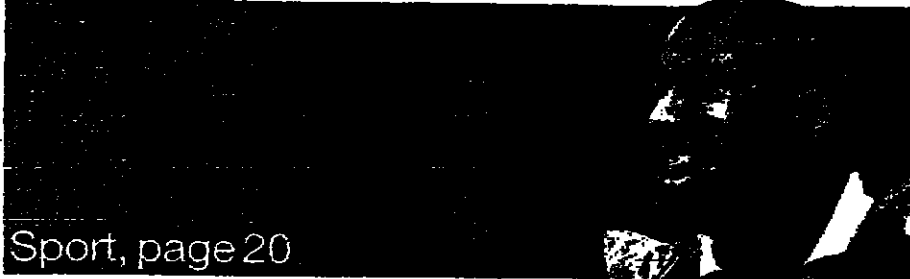


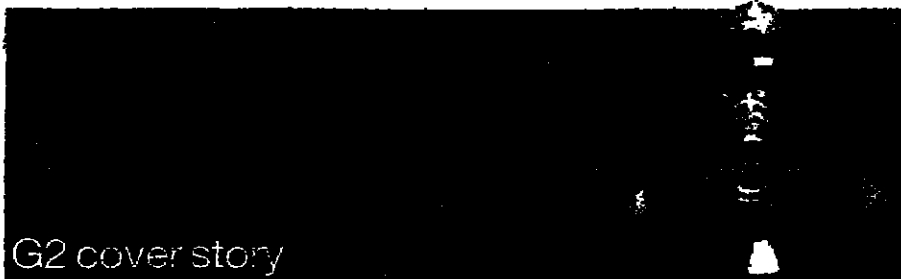
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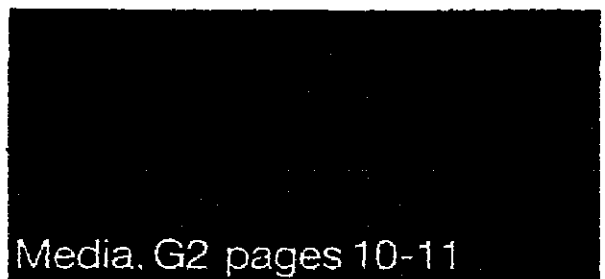
EUROPE



Sport, page 20



G2 cover story



Media, G2 pages 10-11

Netanyahu rejects president's plea to keep to peace process timetable

Israel snubs Clinton

David Starrock
in Jerusalem

PRESIDENT Clinton, distracted by threats of impeachment in three days time, was fighting a losing battle last night to carry a foreign policy victory home to Washington after Israel rejected appeals to keep to the peace process timetable he personally brokered.

On the first day of a visit which most of Israeli premier Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet believes is tilted towards recognition of Palestinian statehood aspirations, Mr Clinton often looked weary. He laboured to convince the Israeli government to press on with full implementation of the Wye land-for-security agreement.

The Wye deal, which took Clinton nine days to negotiate in October and which this visit was supposed to celebrate, trades 10 per cent of Israeli-occupied West Bank for a Palestinian clampdown on extremists. After three months, both sides were to move to final negotiations on Jerusalem's status, refugees and Palestine's borders.

In a reference to a threat by Palestinian president Yasser Arafat to declare a state next May, Mr Clinton told an audience of Israeli students: "The Palestinian leaders must work harder to keep the agreement and avoid the impression that unilateral actions can replace agreed-upon negotiations."

He added, to applause: "But it is vital that you [Israelis], too, recognise the validity of this agreement and work to sustain it and all other aspects of the peace process."

Earlier, he listened impassively as Mr Netanyahu told a joint press conference that the Palestinians had "constantly, systematically and intentionally violated all their commitments."

Mr Netanyahu said the Palestinians had to stop incitement to violence "fully and permanently" and "officially and unequivocally" renounce plans unilaterally to declare a state next May, the deadline for a final peace under the five-year-old Oslo process.

"No one can seriously expect Israel to hand over another inch of territory unless and until such an unambiguous correction is made," he said.

Ignoring White House pressure to avoid the issue, an Israeli television reporter asked Mr Clinton if he would

resign if impeached. "I have no intention of resigning; it has never crossed my mind," Mr Clinton said, in what was his first public comment on the House of Representatives judiciary committee approving four articles of impeachment over the weekend.

Mr Clinton is to visit Palestinian Authority-controlled Gaza today, to address Palestine's parliament-in-exile, the Palestinian National Council (PNC), which under the terms of the Wye agreement is expected to formally abolish calls for Israel's destruction.

Mr Netanyahu insisted publicly and privately that unless the PNC publicly votes out the disputed clauses in its charter he will not join the US president and Yasser Arafat.

Mr Arafat maintains that there will be no vote, because the relevant clauses have already been dealt with. However, a senior PLO official conceded that participants would either raise their hands, stand or clap when the Palestinian leader addresses the gathering today.

"If Israel wants to interpret this as a vote, so be it, but this is not a PNC meeting, and a quorum is not needed nor will there be a vote count," the official said.

Palestinian street violence continued in the West Bank yesterday when an Israeli settler girl was stabbed by a teenage Palestinian girl, and there were clashes in Bethlehem.

Four demonstrators were shot dead by Israeli soldiers last week in stone-throwing clashes fuelled by the belief that Mr Netanyahu had "cheated" on the Wye agreement by releasing ordinary criminals from Israeli jails instead of the political-security prisoners promised.

The leader of the militant Islamic Jihad party in Gaza was arrested last night after saying in a television interview that he would kill Mr Clinton if he could. Abdallah Sham'i said: "I would not hesitate." However, he added: "I don't know of anybody in Gaza who is thinking of killing Clinton now, but if the Wye River agreement involves a change in the Palestinian position to the worse, and somebody does kill him, I will be happy."

Even if Mr Netanyahu declares himself satisfied with the PNC's performance, it is unlikely that the second phase of the land handover will go ahead on schedule later this week. Mr Netanyahu faces a motion of no-confidence next Monday in the



President Clinton lays a stone on the grave of former Israeli premier Yitzhak Rabin yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: STEPHEN JAFFE

is expected to postpone the next troop pullout from the West Bank at least until after the Knesset vote.

Two thousand Palestinians in Israeli jails will today suspend their hunger strike to

lower tensions during Mr Clinton's visit to PA-controlled areas, and instead of a national strike church bells will be rung in Bethlehem during the president's visit.

Mr Clinton also promised

Mr Netanyahu a prompt decision on whether to free Jonathan Pollard, a former US Navy intelligence analyst convicted of spying for Israel, after a review is complete in January.

German bank unions threaten euro launch

David Gower, Mark Milner
and Jill Treanor

GERMAN banking unions are threatening to disrupt the carefully planned start of the single currency on January 1 in a dispute over pay and conditions. The action could bring the first trading in the euro juddering to a halt.

The two unions, the DAG and the HBV, begin negotiations with banking employers in Frankfurt today over their claims for up to 6.5 per cent pay increases, a shorter working week and an immediate ban on redundancies.

But the chief union negotiator, Klaus Carlin of HBV, is warning that the smooth introduction of the euro could be seriously disrupted as the 470,000 banking staff refuse to do extra work.

This could bring the introduction of the single currency to a standstill if other Euro-



Birth of the euro

With just 18 days before the start of the euro, the Guardian today launches a daily analysis of the boldest monetary move Europe has ever made

pean banks feel the Germans are unable to cope with transactions denominated in the euro. Banks, including those in Britain, are demanding huge amounts of overtime from their staff to enable them to be ready for the euro.

German banks want Saturday treated as a normal working day, and to scrap the 13th month — the annual bonus of a month's pay given to many German employees. But the unions want the working week cut from 39 to

35 hours to create greater employment. "German law we are limited in the amount of industrial action we can undertake at this stage of the negotiations," Christiane Zerfass, a spokeswoman for HBV, said yesterday.

"But preparations for the smooth entry of the euro (and to ensure information systems are millennium-bug free) require an enormous amount of extra work, and we could simply refuse to do this."

The threat of disruption within the biggest member of the single currency zone is causing consternation in the City. Even though Britain is not joining the single currency, tens of thousands of employees will be working round the clock over the New Year holiday to ensure its smooth entry.

Mr Carlin said yesterday that German banks had excellent profits and must reward

their employees as well as shareholders and directors. "Banking staff have been forced to enjoy real cuts in pay and need to catch up ... Given the demands on their time this year the banks must stop shedding staff so employees do not drown in weekend working and overtime."

The mood among staff has been inflamed by plans by Deutsche Bank, Germany's biggest financial institution, to hive off its retail banking operations into a separate company. The unions say this could mean 17,000 staff will no longer be covered by national agreements on pay and conditions, and they say other big German banks are waiting to follow suit.

"This could leave our national agreement with as many holes as a Swiss cheese," Ms Zerfass said.

Bank gloom over the cracks, page 5; Dollar rivalry, page 12



Barry Horne, above, the animal rights activist, called off his hunger strike after 68 days last night. He was moved back into hospital from prison in order to be given liquids high in vitamins and protein.

His protest ended without any concession from the Government on animal experiments and amid claims that his hunger strike had been a fraud. Report, page 2

Scandal-hit council's secret plan for pay-offs

David Hencke
Westminster Correspondent

PROMINENT figures implicated in local government's biggest gerrymandering scandal — the Westminster "homes for votes" affair — are to be offered payments totalling £700,000 at a secret meeting of the authority this week.

The proposed payments are a prelude to offering Dame Shirley Porter, the former Conservative leader of the council, up to £1 million from taxpayers' funds if she wins her appeal against a £27 million surcharge imposed by the district auditor, John Magill, after a seven-year inquiry into the scandal.

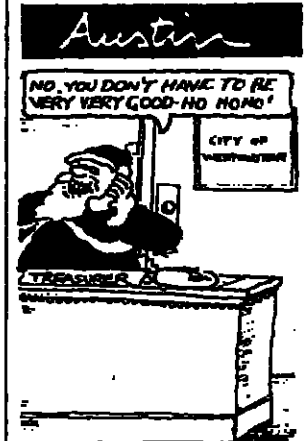
Westminster council has received legal advice that it has no obligation to compensate those involved, and none of those who will receive payments has been totally exonerated.

The payments to the individuals and to a trade association which represented the officials involved are recommended in a secret report by the council. This report will be discussed at a venue to be disclosed to councillors only minutes beforehand on Wednesday.

The report also recommends that Dame Shirley and the former deputy leader David Weeks should, in principle, receive compensation later if they win their appeal cases.

The biggest beneficiary this week will be Barry Legg, the former Tory MP for Milton Keynes South West and chief whip of the Tory authority, who will be offered £165,000 compensation.

The former managing director of the authority, Bill Phillips, is to be offered £101,000 and two prominent serving Tory councillors, Alex Segal and Miles Young, will share



£20,000. Another £350,000 will be handed over to a small staff organisation which represented three Westminster officials, Graham England, director of housing, Sydney Spore, the planning director, and Paul Hayler, a housing assistant.

The council has been told that it can pay the money only if the recipients are "not in any way culpable" in the scandal. This is not borne out by either the district auditor's report or by the High Court which heard the appeals of five people involved.

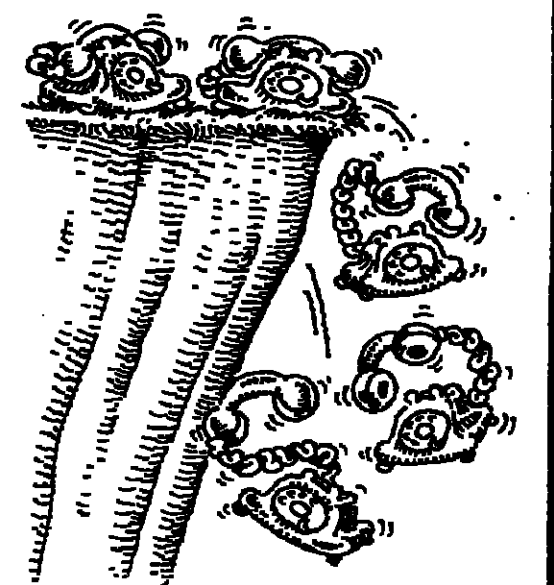
The council sought government permission for the payments, with an application to John Gummer, the former environment secretary, before the last election.

But Mr Gummer declined to intervene and left it in the "in tray" of his successor, John Prescott.

Mr Prescott and Hilary Armstrong, the local government minister, refused to sanction the payments.

Mr Magill, who took legal advice, has also refused Westminster council permission to pay out the cash. However, the new district auditor, turn to page 2, column 8

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	Belgium B 0.50	Portugal P 0.50	Turkey T 0.50
	Belgium B 0.50		USA U 0.50

UK news

Days after the IRA ruled out a weapons handover, an uncompromising senior commander became chief of staff.

International

The race to build the world's tallest building is being led by Hong Kong, which has plans for a 1,883ft glass-clad tower.





In G2 Europe today: John Motson, the football commentator with the troubled brow of a war reporter

• Mike Ellison's New York stories • After Sarajevo, a rise in domestic violence • Media • TV, Radio and European Weather

City job losses 'could reach 80,000'

Employers disguise real scale of sackings by making use of part-time and temporary staff

Lisa Buckingham and Jill Treanor

MORE than 80,000 jobs could be lost in the City of London as a result of the current market downturn, according to a survey by the City of London Corporation.

The figure is far higher than the headline job losses which the City's biggest banks and finance houses are admitting.

Now, experts say, City firms are disguising the scale of job attrition by keeping secret the number of temporary and part-time staff they are sackings.

Under European rules, companies are forced to announce cut backs if they involve 100 people or more. For competitive reasons, banks and insurance companies hate to admit to job losses because these reflect the state of

their business. It is understood that most of the big City firms are laying off their temporary employees whose departure does not have to be made public.

Others are letting highly paid dealers and fund managers leave in dribs and drabs to avoid being caught by the EC disclosure rules.

Roger Stears, founder and chairman of Career Vitality, estimates that for every single job cut announced another takes place behind the scenes.

By his calculations, this puts the number of jobs in the City under threat at a figure near 80,000, some of which have already disappeared.



Protesters show support for Horne in Oxford over the weekend

PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW TESTA

Animal activist labelled a fraud as he calls off hunger strike

Will Woodward

ANIMAL rights activist Barry Horne called off his hunger strike after 68 days last night, having failed to win government support for his key demand and facing claims that the protest was a fraud.

Horne, aged 46, was last night moved back from Full Sutton prison, East Yorkshire, where he is a Category A prisoner serving 18 years for firebombing, to York district hospital. The hospital said he would initially receive liquids high in vitamins and protein and he would stay there until he was fit to return to jail.

The move lifts the immediate threat to four named people whom the Animal Rights Militia said they would kill if Horne died.

Supporters said Horne had "broken his mind" and "lost his sanity". Michael Banner, chairman of the Government's advisory body on animal experiments, the Animal Procedures Committee, said Horne was "a fraud".

Life for Animals, was not achieved. Neither were six earlier demands, all subsequently junked in favour of the royal commission call.

Car wars leave kids burned up

Rory Carroll

IGNITION on parents in the front, children in the back, the misbehaving can start within seconds. Shouting, fighting, squealing — it can turn any car journey into a nightmare.

Car wars break out frequently in most families, according to a new survey. But there's a twist: parents are the miscreants.

Their constant arguments and bad road manners drive their offspring demented.

Bickering, shouting, swearing at other drivers, jumping red lights and speeding can make life on the road hell, according to the survey of 700 children aged nine to 16.

Conducted by the Opinion Research Business for the CGU Insurance company, it found that almost a quarter of children said their parents were guilty of speeding.

Thirty nine per cent were accused of shouting and swearing. London parents were the most likely to be rude, while the Scottish

were the most polite. Midlands parents were the most likely to tell their children to be quiet. Those in the South-west of England were the most tolerant.

London parents were the most likely to break into song, with 61 per cent crooning along to the car radio. Parents in Yorkshire sang the least.

Memorial puts composer in context

Review

Andrew Clements

Messiaen in his Century
Birmingham, Radio 3

OLIVIER Messiaen, who died in 1992, would have been 80 last Thursday. The anniversary was ignored in London's concert halls, but Birmingham and the BBC did his memory proud.

A marathon evening of concerts, all broadcast live and interspersed with discussions and talks (almost like the old

days on Radio 3), began with the pianist Peter Donohoe wickedly juxtaposing Albaniz with Stockhausen, Scriabin with Dukas, to conjure up the musical world out of which Messiaen developed and the new territory that he helped to colonise, and ended with a recital from the Oratory Church in Edebaston, in which Gillian Weir surveyed some of the landmarks in his organ works, the creative thread that ran through Messiaen's whole life.

But the heart of the evening was a concert in the CBSO Centre, given by the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group conducted by George Benjamin, and offering yet another context: Messiaen's significance to the generations of composers who followed. The list of those who studied with him, from Pierre Boulez to Benjamin himself, reads like a roll call of some of the most important figures of our time.

The centrepiece of the BCMG programme was the longest of all Messiaen's solo piano pieces, La Roussarde Effrénée (The Red Warbler), played by the phenomenal Pierre-Laurent Aimard as if his life depended upon it. This extravagant evocation of nature among the marshes of central France has never seemed so vital, so packed with minutely observed detail.

The lack of similarities between Xenakis's prolix and over-insistent *Jaloux*, Benjamin's *At First Light*, still startlingly brilliant 16 years after it was written, and Boulez's touching, delicate *Mémoires*, all vividly delivered by BCMG, had demonstrated how individuality was never stifled in those famous composition classes, and there were specially commissioned tributes from pupils too.

If it was as far removed from anything in Messiaen's own musical world as could be imagined today, for that very reason it made an utterly revealing memorial.

The main players

Barry Horne is a 46-year-old animal rights activist who has been in prison for 18 years for firebombing. He is currently on hunger strike to demand the abolition of animal experiments.

Alison Lawson is a friend of Horne's who has been in prison for 18 years for firebombing. She is currently on hunger strike to demand the abolition of animal experiments.

Mark Matfield is the director of the Research Defence Society and one of the people named on the animal rights assassination "hit list".

Scandal-hit council's secret plan for pay-offs

continued from page 1
Brian Wilmore, who has not taken legal advice, has left it to the authority to make up its own mind.

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Lord Grade, with trademark cigar... The one-time charleston champion became a vital force in British TV, and among many other shows was responsible for Jesus of Nazareth (top right) and The Saint

MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID NILLIOT

Lord Grade, showbiz colossus, dies at 91

Tributes poured in to the man who more than any was ITV's founding father. **Janine Gibson reports**

LORD Lew Grade, Britain's most legendary showbusiness entrepreneur and the man who shaped commercial television, died early yesterday at the age of 91, prompting a wave of tributes from the film and television industry.

Lord Grade entered the London Clinic two weeks ago for surgery and subsequently developed heart failure. He died with close family members at his bedside.

As chairman for 20 years of Associated Television, he was

the executive behind many of ATV's most enduring hits, including *Robin Hood*, *Sunday Night at the London Palladium*, *Emergency Ward 10*, *The Saint*, *Crossroads* and *The Muppets*.

Leading the tributes yesterday, the Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, said: "Lord Grade was a giant in the world of popular entertainment and he made an enormous contribution to the development of commercial television in Britain."

Lord Grade's friends and colleagues yesterday paid

tribute to his energy and enthusiasm. Bob Baker, producer of one of Lord Grade's biggest television successes, *The Saint*, said: "He was the last of the great ones, an original. He lived showbusiness and no-one made a greater contribution to television in the 1950s and 1960s."

Lord Grade's secretary and friend of 35 years, Marcia Stanton, said he would never give up. "I used to ask him from time to time if we shouldn't stop and retire but he would just press on." Her personal memory would be of his great humour.

The film director Michael Winner said: "He was totally unique. Lew was the epitome of the word entrepreneur."

The film producer Lord Putnam spoke to Radio 4's

The World This Weekend about his friend. "I've never known, and I never will know, anyone quite like him. I loved him, and that is not an exaggeration. He was ebullient, incredibly generous with his time, and over the years, with his money. He was a great man."

Sir John Elst, director-general of the BBC, said in a statement: "He was a life force — a man of great verve and enterprise — who helped give ITV its character, and its viewers enormous entertainment and pleasure."

Sir Christopher Bland, the BBC chairman, said: "Lew was the last of the great entertainers, a man who realised that TV and life should be fun — the most powerful force in TV of his day."

He will be greatly missed." But Lord Grade was not always successful. Ironically, given the subject's recent cinematic success, it was an £18 million film about the Titanic that proved his biggest failure.

With characteristic wit, he turned the episode into a joke, saying of the film, *Raise the Titanic*: "It would have been cheaper to lower the Atlantic."

Lord Grade's funeral will be held at a north London synagogue on Wednesday. Dozens of Hollywood and British celebrities are expected to attend. He leaves his widow, Kathie, a son, Paul, and two grandchildren, Daniel and Georgina.

Obituary, page 10

Top Grade

- **Robin Hood** One of Associated Television's earliest, and most celebrated, hit series in the 1950s
- **The Saint** The legendary Saint character, originally played in the 1960s by Roger Moore
- **The Persuaders** Roger Moore again, this time in the early 1970s with Tony Curtis
- **Jesus of Nazareth** Critically acclaimed 1978 epic — although, according to showbiz legend, Lord Grade asked if it could be made with only six apostles
- **The Muppets** From the 1970s to the present day, Kermit and Miss Piggy might never have made it were it not for Lew Grade
- **Crossroads** The long-running ITV soap opera, famed for its wobbling cardboard sets, ran for more than 10 years before the Midlands motel of the title shut its doors for good in the late 1970s
- **Emergency Ward 10** Long before ER or Casualty, Emergency Ward 10 was the doctors and nurses drama of popular choice. It ran from 1957 to 1967



Where would we be without Lew? ... Lord Grade backed the Muppet Show

'The last of the great entertainers, he realised TV and life should be fun — the most powerful force in TV of his day'

Fancy footwork and dazzling spiel made him into Mr Entertainment

Nancy Banks-Smith

LOUIS B. Mayer chose July 4 as his birthday because it sounded suitably cock-a-hoop and Yankee Doodle. Olga Winogradski, who had the greatest confidence in her children, chose December 25 for the birthday of her son, Lew.

It may have been his birthday. As they were one jump ahead of the Coscecks at the time, it's hard to say.

Lew Grade was in many respects a mythical creature, or, as they say in show business, fabulous. You felt he had heard about those big predators with a gut sense of what the public wanted, and decided he was going to be just like that.

Goldwynisms grew on him like barnacles. All, he claimed, untrue. The one about it being cheaper to lower the Atlantic than to

raise the Titanic. The one about economising on the number of apostles in Jesus of Nazareth. The one about making Underwater Rabbi to counter the big hit of the day, *The Flying Nun*. He was such an entertaining character, it was a pleasure to write lines for him.

Olga's reply to the Queen Mother was, however, well authenticated. "You must be very proud of your children." — "And so must you, my dear, and so must you."

Lew's death at 91 has eclipsed the gaiety of the season for me. For 40 years or so, in good times and bad, he gave critics a Christmas dinner, always with a bobby-dazzling spiel about some implausible upcoming project, and, until recently, a spirited burst of the Charleston.

At 19 he actually was the Charleston Champion of the World (judge: Fred Astaire), having learned acrobatic Russian dances from his father.

That was how he started in show business. His act was a frenzied Charleston on a tiny table. If he did not hit dead centre, everything collapsed. Something of a metaphor for show business, as he was to discover.

The endearing thing about him was his friendliness. The small, circular body seemed to radiate warmth. With the exception of Mike Todd, I never knew anyone like him for the big gesture. I cannot guarantee that this generosity extended to business. Lord Delfont's autobiography resounds with the crumb of big brothers colliding ("I pleaded family loyalty, I pleaded wife and daughter, I pleaded lots of things, but Lew was adamant"). But as Godfrey Winn said about God: "I don't care what they say. He was always perfectly sweet to me."

Once he took a plane load of us to Hollywood, where I became, rather unwillingly, an

officer of the starship Enterprise ("The movie named off, or, having indicated a willingness to engage in hazardous assignment, is ordered to report for lift off immediately"), and then on to Charlie Las Vegas, where Johnny Weissmuller, the greatest Tarzan, was gladdening gamblers from his wheelchair for his keep.

To get a letter saying Lew's Christmas dinner would be a little late this year was strange enough to be worrying. I saw a cushion embroidered with "If I can't smoke cigars in heaven then I simply shall not go — Mark Twain." That, I thought, will do nicely for Lew.

In the circumstances, I would prefer Mark Twain's better known remark that reports of his death have been greatly exaggerated.

Lew was always such tremendous fun. With him you felt entertainment was entertaining.

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There is a growing feeling that police officers are not valued either by their chief officers or by the Government. I can't remember morale ever being lower even in the bad days of '74 and '75 when officers were being paid less than bus crews.

The dark side of the force — Duncan Campbell reports

G2 cover story

سكرا من الامن

Blair glosses over EU summit cracks



Michael White
on worries about
Britain's position
in Europe, and
uncertainty over
the impending
launch of the
euro, left largely
unassuaged after
the weekend's
meeting in Vienna

Birth of the euro

TONY Blair yesterday spearheaded a ministerial offensive to assert that Britain "probably has a stronger position in Europe today" than for decades, despite the launch of the single currency in three weeks that will sharply divide the 11 "euro-zone" from the four "outs".

After his return from the European Union's weekend summit in Vienna, the Prime Minister and senior colleagues took to the airwaves to reassure voters that no essential national interest had been threatened in the two days of negotiations, and that — contrary to reports in the Euro-sceptic press — "I don't think it's been a very bruising summit for us at all".

Brushing aside talk of a battle over Britain's £2 billion annual rebate, he said the real battle in Vienna had been between northern EU states which want to stabilise the union's budget, and "some of the poorer southern countries saying they want more money spent in Europe".

By two crucial tests, being policy decisions and media spin, Mr Blair's achievement in Vienna was negative. After weeks of what former Tory chancellor Kenneth Clarke yesterday denounced as "high-pitched, Euro-hysteria" in some newspapers, Mr Blair kept the budget off most of Britain's weekend front pages. But, in the present uncertainty over the euro, that calm atmosphere will not last.

Yesterday, George Soros — the Hungarian-American financier who reputedly made a \$1 billion killing on sterling's exit from the EU's exchange rate mechanism in 1992 — renewed his warning that the pound may suffer extreme fluctuations as the relative strengths of the euro and the US dollar are tested in coming months.

That claim was denied by the Treasury minister Stephen Byers, who said "tough decisions" taken since Gordon Brown became Chancellor will protect sterling's position as a strong currency.

Privately, ministers are hoping for the best, although Mr Byers said on Sky TV that "there may be speculation, not just affecting the pound, but across the world. I think we need to look very carefully at that".

Today, the Tory leader William Hague will launch a fresh onslaught against a range of EU policy ambitions such as tax harmonisation and budgetary aims, as well as the euro, which he is pledged to resist until it is proved a success or failure by 2005/06. He will also cite the Vienna communiqué to prove what he believes is the step-by-step success of the integrationist agenda within the EU.

Mr Blair yesterday praised Lady Thatcher for "standing firm for Britain's interests". But Mr Hague claims that the Prime Minister is going with the flow of integration, whatever his rhetoric. The Tories meanwhile still hanker after a "special relationship" between Europe and the US — as they have for 50 years.

Competitive support for the Government's "keep calm" approach came yesterday from Mr Clarke, writing in the Observer. More cautious was Douglas Hurd, who warned against "over-excitement" but also said that the long-serving foreign secretary reminded Mr Blair that he would find it as hard as Mr Major to manage the media debate.

One reason for this week-end's relative media calm was the summiters' second negative achievement: the postponing of divisive decisions on budget reform, Greece, Portugal, Ireland and, above all, Spain, stand to lose as the euro is tightened prior to the arrival of even poorer newcomers from eastern Europe.

Those decisions will be taken in March under the rotating EU presidency of Germany, whose Social Democrat-led coalition will be eager to prove to its own sceptical voters that it can do even better than the ousted Helmut Kohl at defending Bonn's interests and their taxes, which sustain the EU budget.



The shop man: The customers can pay as they like — no problem!

THE EURO has not yet penetrated the dramatic world of Tony Macpherson, who sells Amazing Live Sea Monkeys and Tales of the Wrath of Hera from a small shop in Halifax's colonnaded Piece Hall.

"I have looked into it, because we do quite a lot of mail order abroad," he says. But Belgian, Spanish and other customers of his Comelville business, which specialises in old comics and unusual toys, are currently content to pay in sterling or their own currency.

"If any of them are

specially keen to pay in euros, I've made sure the bank can handle it. But it hasn't been a top-priority issue. I'm afraid I've not got round yet to thinking about euro prices in the catalogues — I must do that."

Tourists carrying euro travellers' cheques may also come his way, with the specialty shops of the Piece Hall attracting increasing numbers of visitors from the Continent. One of Yorkshire's finest buildings, where cloth merchants displayed "pieces" or samples of their goods, it attracts many foreign tourists.

"I'll have to sort out with the bank what to do if they want to pay with a euro travellers' cheque," he says, pondering items like an inflatable South Park sofa comfortably in the cheque-paying range.

"Again, it's going to be down to the bank. I think, and whether they can sort it out."

Halifax won a fame of sorts during Britain's last major currency change, when a Bradford pensioner told TV she was moving there 'because decimals will never catch on in Halifax'.

She was very wrong. Now, as 11 European countries prepare for a new common currency, the West Yorkshire town is considering the impact of the euro. **Martin Wainwright** spoke to five people about how it will affect their working lives.

PHOTOGRAPHS: KIPPA MATTHEWS



The bank manager: 'We're raising the euro's profile'

MICHELLE Taylor runs another Halifax institution, the Yorkshire Bank, under a chubby bust of its creator, Colonel Edward Atterbury, head of one of the great 19th century textile dynasties.

She and colleagues have been immersing themselves in the technicalities of the euro for months, to be ready for customers who will need to make payments or take receipts in Euros.

"European Monetary Union and the euro form one of the most fundamental recent changes to the financial environment, and I've needed to

understand in particular the new payments systems for paying and receiving euros and the potential benefits which borrowing in euros may give to some businesses."

Businesses are the most interested of her customers. Some are ahead with planning, she said, and in several cases have used the currency change for reviews of their business.

"But others have yet to begin thinking about it, and we're raising the euro's profile through leaflets to business customers."

Personal customers have not made many Euro inquiries. Mrs Taylor estimates Britain's "out" status means little impact on them for now.

"The main area of inquiry has been the availability of euro travellers' cheques — or when they can just use them directly to pay at shops or restaurants."



The travel agent: 'It will make our life easier'

IN HALIFAX'S new Woolfsholme complex, a mixture of modern redevelopment and cobbled terrace streets, Adele Bradley is busy selling holidays at Travelworld — and thinking that euro travellers' cheques might eventually make life easier for customers.

"That's probably going to be the best thing. If people on holiday in Europe can change them at the same rate, say, that you get in France for travellers' cheques in francs. Or when they can just use them directly to pay at shops or restaurants."

She and her staff at the branch have kept pace with the euro. But there has been little demand for information as yet.

Adele says: "We've had one or two inquiries about the euro and foreign currency but I don't think there's going to be much change for us until they bring in the actual notes and coins in 2002."

By then, the branch's work experience student, 15-year-old Kenneth, may have gone into the business, helped by following the slow saga of the euro's development at his Calderdale school.

In the meantime, Halifax holidaymakers won't find brochure prices in euros yet — maybe next year — and are still most likely to be offered sterling or US dollar travellers' cheques.

"But we'll see," says Adele, "because the euro is clearly going to become another currency option."

The euro — or eu etu, and even curo

Nicholas Watt
Political Correspondent

It may be the greatest attempt in centuries to unite Europe but most British people seem blissfully ignorant about the euro.

With three weeks to go before its launch, a poll has found that 51 per cent of people do not have a clue that the new currency is called the euro. Guesses at its name included squader, euru, etu, eu and even the curo.

As for the value of the euro, a mere 10 per cent of people polled by BBC's Money Programme correctly said that it will be worth about 70p. Estimates of its value against the pound ranged from one penny to £2.

A mere 5 per cent knew that euro notes and coins will be introduced in the year 2002, three years after 11 EU countries lock their currencies into the EMU

next month. Most people thought they could use notes and coins in the mysterious currency from next year. The BBC interviewed 1,000 at the end of last month for the survey.

Both sides of the European debate claimed last night that the poll vindicated their positions. Denis MacShane, the pro-European Labour MP for Rotherham who is a ministerial aide in the Foreign Office, said: "If 51 per cent of people have not heard of the euro that means that there are a lot of people who have. I'm surprised that there are so many people who have heard of the euro. This shows that there is a very high recognition factor for the euro."

However, John Redwood, the Eurosceptic shadow trade and industry secretary, said that the survey showed that people were not keen on the euro. "The Government is too scared to name a date for the referendum."



The big business: 'We will not be having much time off'

BERNARD Muldoon has lived with the euro for 17 months as full-time manager, euro planning at Halifax plc. "It was only in May that we finally had it confirmed which the 'in' countries were

going to be," he says, and the pace of events hasn't slowed. "It will peak over the new year, when his colleagues join at least 50,000 City financial staff working 24 hours for up to three days on converting bonds into Euros before trading starts on January 4."

"We have operations in Spain and Luxembourg which are 'in' countries," says Mr Muldoon. "And three investment funds — two based in London, one in Leeds — which trade in bonds in the 'wholesale' market (local authority clients, or pension

funds) and may deal in euros. They'll not be having much time off at new year."

Individual account or mortgage-holders won't see such hectic change, though payment services, cheques and Visa cards will all be adapted to take the new currency. Mr Muldoon, who sits below a surfing poster warning "if you're not riding the wave of change, you'll find yourself underneath it", reckons that 2002, when euro coins and notes arrive, will see the big shift for the man and woman in the street.



The small business: 'It makes things hard to plan'

ALUN Gabriel runs a specialist foreign trading business, Export Partners, from Dean Clough mill, the largest carpet factory in the world in the days of the 19th century Crossley family.

Surrounded by trade directories of every EU state, his euro-dealings have been dogged, like other small businesses, by the Government's wavering over whether to go in or stay out.

"It makes things hard to plan on a long term basis," he said. The uncertainty does not have a major effect on his business, which finds foreign distributors for British exporters, but may be an irritation as the new currency becomes an alternative means of payment.

"The bank will be able to

handle it, as just another currency option," he said. "And payment will remain possible in pounds. The practical effects will come from the level at which they set the euro — at the present level, I don't think many customers will change to it."

Government talk of a referendum on whether to join is his main complaint. "It's a real cop-out. They've got millions of economists working for them, but they fall back on us to tell them what's best on a very complicated financial decision."

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In the first of a series on four countries' reaction to the single currency, Ian Traynor reports from Rothwesten, the birthplace of the Deutschmark

Mark of pride in German nation

EUROPE'S most successful currency was born 50 years ago as a shipment of doorknobs carried out amid absolute secrecy. Europe's single currency will be born in little more than a fortnight, ending half a century of the Deutschmark during which Germany has risen from ruin to become the world's third economic power. It is a transformation in which the mark has wielded totemic power for Germans. As the paramount symbol of the post-war republic it has been a source of pride and prosperity. It is not easy for them to forget it for an untested euro. "I don't like the name, the euro, and I don't buy this myth of sameness and unity," says Annette Kursen, aged 26, an art historian. "Everybody I know is frightened."

What's wrong with the D-mark? asks Robert Gottschalk, aged 75, a retired civil servant.

That's a question with which Germany's political leaders have been struggling for years. But over the past decade the former chancellor, Helmut Kohl, drove the euro past the point of no return and cajoled his countrymen into going along with him. His successor, Gerhard Schröder, shares neither that millennial messianism nor the boldness to go sharply against the grain of public opinion. But the man who described the single currency as a "premature sickly infant" is, like most Germans, resigned to making it work.

"We're condemned to succeed. We have to create the conditions for a successful euro," he told the Bundestag in Bonn last week. "The euro has passed its first tough test on the markets with flying colours. Its acceptance by the public constantly grows."

Indeed, while opinion polls for the past three years have shown a majority against the



Children in West Berlin watch a US plane bring in supplies to circumvent the Russian blockade, introduced by Stalin in 1948 after 10 men and a woman drafted the laws to create the Deutschmark. They worked shrouded in secrecy in the Rothwesten military compound (below)



euro, a survey published on Friday showed for the first time a slim majority in favour. Germans are generally keen on the more abstract notions of Europe and integration. When it comes to the money in their purses, wallets, and bank accounts, however, Euro-scepticism holds sway. But they will have to like it or lump it: the

Deutschmark's 50th birthday this year is also its funeral. For seven weeks in 1948 at a hilltop military barracks in Rothwesten, a village in central Germany, 10 men and one woman crunched the numbers and drafted the laws which heralded the new currency. The mark's birth on June 30 was a formative moment in the cold war and nearly sparked a hot war. Stalin

mounted the Berlin blockade in protest and the US and Britain launched the 14-month Berlin airlift. The collapse of Rothwesten was so clandestine that the participants, 10 German currency and legal experts and a 27-year-old Harvard graduate and Pol-

ish immigrant to the United States, did not even know where they were for the first five weeks and were warned by US soldiers they would be shot if they tried to leave the barbed-wire compound. The result of their deliberations was the printing in the US of 1,100 tonnes of paper into 20 mark notes, which were shipped to the northern port of Bremerhaven in 28,000 wooden crates. The secret cargo had "doorknobs" stencilled on the boxes. That's all history to Alexander, aged 24, a student of Italian and English, who is happy to live in a Europe where the internal borders are open and who relishes the prospect of not having to change money when she pops down to Milan, hops on the train to Lyon, or takes the ferry to Folkestone. "It will be much more pleasant to have just one currency in Europe. Most of the people I know think the same. Maybe it's a question of age."

But even her enthusiasm is mixed with reservations. "The disadvantage is that the D-mark has been stable, but the Italians, the Greeks and the Spanish don't have stable currencies." "Stability" has been the watchword of the political class in seeking to persuade Germans to abandon the mark, hence the "stability pact". Bonn insisted on — the regime of budget deficit ceilings and fines for European Union miscreants. This fixation on stability caused colossal rows between the Kohl government and France. The Schröder administration is much closer to the French position than was Mr Kohl's. "We're going to have to brace ourselves," says Mr Gottschalk, the former civil servant. "We've no idea what we've let ourselves in for."

Next: The Netherlands

Why I love the euro ...



Alfred Kossinger: 'Everything stagnates; it's time for a change'

ALFRED KOSSINGER, aged 62, is a sprightly retired policeman from Kassel and ex-Luftwaffe fighter pilot who took part in the Spanish civil war and the Battle of Britain. He supports the single currency.

"I'M LOOKING forward to the euro. It's a new era. Time doesn't stand still. The German mark has been good and stable, but it doesn't have the purchasing power it once had. And we've fought for this Europe for a long time. The euro is not going to bring heaven on earth, but

everything stagnates and it's time for a change. Business is in favour of the euro and that's telling. It will be much easier for firms to do business abroad. The euro means that the producer who makes good things at a good price will have his nose forward. People are very divided and they say we haven't really been consulted. But we weren't asked in the purchasing power it once had. And we've fought for this Europe for a long time. The euro is not going to bring heaven on earth, but

been general elections. We elect the politicians to take those decisions. But even in the Bundesbank, they're divided about the euro, like in the rest of the country. What's wrong with that? That's good. That's democracy. There's no alternative now anyway so we might as well get used to it. I think that if we want a common Europe and we don't have a common language, then we might as well have a common currency."

Why I hate the euro ...



Rita Nienhaus: 'No one knows what will happen. I'm afraid'

RITA NIENHAUS, a 40-year-old psychologist from Bonn, is against the single currency. "IT REMINDS me of former Yugoslavia. The kind of forced unity imposed dictatorially and look what happened there. I'm against it generally. That kind of pressure can have the opposite effect, causing tension that pulls Europe apart. Perhaps in the longer term there should be a single currency, but first there should be political unity. The euro has come too fast."

It is centralising and standardising. I prefer a Europe where the democracies preserve their individuality. Besides, every country has to run its own budget and solve its own problems. There's a lack of transparency. And there's a lot of uncertainty, especially with so much unemployment. No one knows what will happen. I'm a bit afraid. There hasn't been enough debate about all this. Until about two years ago, it was controversial and it was debated. But it became clear during [this year's German] election

campaign that there was no chance of opposing the euro because it was so closely connected with Kohl. It's important to be critical and to discuss things, but now it's not even questioned because people know there is no choice. There should have been a referendum. It seems to me that the euro is all about power and who will have the most influence. But countries in the European Union can support each other without all that centralism. It's coming too early."

Unarmed watchdogs on the road to fragile peace

Chris Bird in Samodraza

CHRIS Bird in Samodraza. The British army officer said of the two ethnic Albanian fighters with the Kosovo Liberation Army, fighting the Yugoslav government here for independence. "They're a bit of a worry so we're letting them know we're here."

"They're KLA," the former British army officer said of the two ethnic Albanian fighters with the Kosovo Liberation Army, fighting the Yugoslav government here for independence. "They're a bit of a worry so we're letting them know we're here."

Mr Cobb-Smith, who until recently was inspecting weapons sites in Iraq, is now with the Kosovo Verification Mission (KVM) deployed by the OSCE security organisation to make sure the Yugoslav president, Slobodan Milosevic, keeps his word on troop withdrawals from the war-stricken territory.

Serb forces destroyed thousands of homes, forcing up to 300,000 people to flee in a summer offensive aimed at smashing popular support for the

separatist guerrillas in Kosovo, where about 90 per cent of the population are ethnic Albanians. Milosevic halted the violence only under threat of a Nato air bombardment and reluctantly agreed to an unarmed international observer force in Kosovo. The previous day, Mr Cobb-Smith saw a Serb police patrol come across a lone KLA fighter crossing the road in front of them. The Serbs shot at the guerrilla, who managed to

run for cover and fire an anti-tank round at the patrol before disappearing. Mr Cobb-Smith and 70 other British monitors — Britain will eventually send 200 to the planned 2,000-strong mission — say their task is to stand between the warring sides with only their Landrovers to protect them. But there is confusion over the French-led Nato force now assembling in Macedonia. The 1,700-strong force, including 300 British soldiers due to

arrive this week, is meant to use helicopters to rescue monitors in danger. But in an interview in The Washington Post yesterday, Mr Milosevic said that any Nato rescue mission would be regarded by Yugoslav troops as an act of war. With neither the Yugoslav government nor the guerrillas anywhere near a compromise, the conflict over Kosovo's future threatens to reignite when the snows melt in spring.

The Guardian Travel Shop

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News in brief

Safety gear 'removed'

EQUIPMENT that allowed aircraft to land safely in bad weather was removed from the airport in Surat Thani six months before a Thai Airways plane crashed last week killing 101 people, aviation sources said yesterday.

The plane, an Airbus A310-200, made two attempts to land in heavy rain at the airport in the southern Thai town on Friday before crashing into a swamp.

The airport's Instrument Landing System (ILS) had been removed during construction work to extend the runway, said an air traffic control official. A Thai air force pilot who flew into the airport yesterday said pilots had to use a less accurate radio navigation system. — Reuters

Iraqi sites searched

UNITED NATIONS inspectors visited 25 places yesterday on the last day of their current round of searches for Iraq's il-

legal weapons, Iraqi and UN officials said.

Experts from the UN Special Commission and International Atomic Energy Agency carried out surprise and scheduled checks, the Iraqi News Agency said. — Reuters

Reduction in violent crime

A DROP in the number of robberies and murders helped improve the figures for violent crime in the US in the first six months of the year, continuing a downward trend that began in 1992, the FBI said.

The FBI said robberies decreased by 11 per cent, while murders declined by 8 per cent compared with the same period in 1997. — Reuters

Statehood referendum

PUERTO RICANS voted yesterday on whether to petition for statehood in the US.

The referendum pitted statehood advocates against defenders of its status as a US commonwealth. — AP

09/11/2015

e-mail

Jon Henley
@Paris

IN Amsterdam central station there is a small handwritten notice, in French, English and Dutch, taped to a pillar near an escalator leading to a new train that speeds you straight to Paris.

"Attention", this notice says helpfully. "Beware. You are leaving Holland, where you will no doubt be aware that a lot of things are permitted, and travelling to France, where most of these things are forbidden. Behind you are several wastepaper bins. Please make use of them if you wish."

It is an unfortunate fact, in these days of ever-closer European integration, that being caught in France with a few ounces of Dutch dope (this year's biggest hitlers, according to the blowers' bible, *Essensie*, are Jack Herer, Northern Lights and Haze) leaves you open to 30 years in prison. Whereas in Amsterdam, providing the pot is really potent, you win prizes for it.

This sad failure of EU harmonisation would not be worth recounting were it not that a lot of French people actually smoke pot, even though the word for it here is, unaccountably, "shit". Not only that, but they talk about it as if it was a 1986 Puffy-Montrachet or a 1974 Gevrey-Chambertin.

Last Friday, at a perfectly ordinary party in a flat near the Bastille, Jean-Yves produced a joint called Mr Nice. This is apparently a particularly brain-crushing cross between G13 Nederwiet and the legendary Hashplant, winner of the first-ever Amsterdam Cannabis Cup a few years ago.

In Holland, when the weed is especially winning, the response is very Dutch. Woof, hoo-er-hoor, where did you get that from? At this party in Paris, Bérénice, a radio reporter, said, and I quote: "The most important thing for me is the nose. It can be blind for hours. But I also look for a high that doesn't make me stupid — one that's distributed evenly around the skull, not concentrated on your forehead."

Alain, a sometime musician who was giving the party, said that personally, he preferred the kind of "shit" that left him unable to talk about it sensibly afterwards.

THE point of all this is that the French allow you many things: they allow you to gorge yourself on six-course lunches without feeling guilty, they positively encourage you to drink at least three glasses of red wine a day, they are never happier than when you smoke a cigarette where it is expressly forbidden to do so and they will not even consider you for head of state unless you have a mistress or two. But their attitude to soft drugs is absurd.

There are fewer drug-related deaths per capita in the Netherlands than in almost any other EU country and the number of heroin addicts has fallen by over a third since the mid-1980s. I make no point other than that the official French stance is hypocritical. Oh, and that on a night when you should inhale Mr Nice.

The Heart of Europe (latest pictures)



Blair must have the courage to tackle the causes of teenage pregnancies

Polly Toynbee



RIGHT the blue newspaper and stand well back — there are some subjects on which the Government can't avoid igniting fire. Works in the Tory press. Sometimes there is just no third way round explosive confrontations with them. This weekend, for the first time, Tony Blair started to get tough with the Eurosceptic press, though he did not, alas, go as far as Gerhard Schröder, who called the Sun "pig muck". Blair prefaced his mildly critical comments on Radio 4 with this astonishing preamble: "Let's be honest about it. The British media at its finest is the best in the world..." before politely pointing out their gross misreporting on Europe. His new brave punch-on-the-nose-with-a-banky stamp-on-their-toes-in-slipper approach might have passed unnoticed if Downing Street sources hadn't briefed that this really was it — gloves off, bare knuckles, no more nice Mr Murdoch time. Well, it's a start.

Europe is the big one, but by no means the only one. Take the question of teenage pregnancy. Last week's Office of National Statistics figures showing one in 100 girls under 16 get pregnant — an 11 per cent increase — rekindled the Daily Mail's fiery front page indignation: "The trend throws a big question mark over the ever-increasing promotion of contraception to young people." According to their curious biology, contraception apparently causes pregnancy. So the Government's long-delayed policy paper on teenage pregnancy can expect a rough ride. There is no third way between the rabid "Just

Say No" Daily Mail anti-sex lobby and the teachers, health workers and social workers on the ground who know what works. If the Daily Mail doesn't damn it when it comes out, it won't be worth the paper it's written on. If they don't brand it the permissive society gone mad, it'll be a waste of time. There is growing suspicion this paper has been delayed due to political anxiety. Words can't paper over this crack — the policy has to work and teenage pregnancies must be reduced. Four task forces led jointly by Tessa Jowell at Health and Estelle Morris at Education were about to publish a strategy when suddenly on the last day before the summer recess, Tony Blair unexpectedly handed the whole issue over to his Social Exclusion Unit — to report in December. But the timetable has slipped twice since then: now the date is March. No, swears the Social Exclusion Unit, this has nothing to do with politics — teenage pregnancy is a very complex subject.

They have taken tomes of evidence, visited other countries — Holland, which has a rate one tenth that of Britain, and the US where rates are higher. They have perused all the research. Last week it was the turn of the reactionaries to give evidence. Victoria Gillick, now a Life adviser to young pregnant girls, Valerie Riches of Family and Youth Concern and leaders of the Conservative family campaign all trooped into the Cabinet Office to have their say. Gillick told them to adopt one simple clear message for the young: "Just Say No" to all sex. Contraception is danger-

ous because they misuse it, condoms fall off and they forget to take the pill. Worse, offering contraception sends out the wrong message that teenage sex is officially OK. Giving in to the sexualised culture all around us is just a counsel of despair, short-changing the young. Brook Advisory, which runs contraception clinics for the young, looks on with growing trepidation. Does the Government imagine that there is some third way here, where Gillick can be placated? There is only one real question: will the Government Just Say No to the Daily Mail? My guess is that they will, eventually, because there is no alternative. The evidence of what needs to be done is overwhelming and the Social Exclusion Unit is serious about social policy. They can't ignore evidence like this: young pregnancies are lowest nearest to well-publicised clinics for the young; numbers rise every kilometre further away. In identical social areas, teen pregnancies vary widely, depending on quality of sex education and youth clinics.

THE SEU is exploring the deeper root causes. Half of teenagers reject abortion and choose to have the baby, because nothing else in their life offers them anything better. Middle-class girls have abortions and carry on with education, but poor girls already failing at school, drop out into motherhood. Half of all girls leaving care have babies before or soon after leaving. Half the daughters of teenage mothers from poor homes themselves become teenage mothers. Why?

Because they have nothing else to hope for. Hope is the best deterrent. Research shows that young girls feel coerced against their will into having sex too young, many are virtually raped, emotionally blackmailed and give in reluctantly to boys who refuse to use condoms. The evidence is that good sex education is something the moralists should approve of, as it concentrates on navigating relationships and on arming girls to get their own way. "Just Say No" as a message from moral campaigners gets nowhere, but giving girls the self-confidence to do what they want, feel strong, articulate and in control leads to them not getting pregnant and having first sex at a later age. Teaching boys to talk about sex outside their laddish culture helps, and so does frightening them with the facts about sexually transmitted diseases. But the moralists paint a lurid picture of sex education as if it were a value-free invitation to the innocent to indulge in previously unheard of perversions. Whatever pious preambles the Government's policy is clothed in when it finally emerges, it will have to offer a comprehensive, pro-active, vigorous new campaign to ensure all schools get the best sex education, confidential nurses and well-advised local clinics giving out contraceptive pills and condoms. The Daily Mail won't like it, but they'll have to lump it. And it will be another chance for this Government to learn that these newspaper bullies don't represent the nation's attitudes and they can be faced down with the facts.

Our £2 billion EU rebate isn't worth defending to the death

Spoilt for choice

Peter Preston



THERE are, remember, always alternatives. The alternative to waking up in the middle of the night in a cold sweat is a sleeping pill and slumbering on. The alternative to watching Michael Howard on breakfast TV is a zap of the button. And the alternative to our current world of Endless Funk — over Europe, Scottish devolution, the querulous world of an England adrift — is just as simple: to calm down and talk alternatives.

Was there any seeming alternative, seven days ago, to the humiliation Tony Blair would endure in Vienna as Red Oskar and Blue Jacques drove him from the centre of Europe, harmonising British taxes to manic levels and pocketing our rebate in their berserk drive towards super-statism? Of course there was: it consisted, as we may now observe, of not harmonising anything, of putting chat about cash (like everything else) off till after Christmas — and of resurrecting the alternative to abolishing duty-free shopping, which is not to abolish it.

You might well ask why a Government committed to piling tax on smokers and harmonising European booze prices up to British levels thinks this a negotiating triumph — just as you might wonder why the French and Germans, in their supposed federalising passion, also want to keep all the little airport enclaves of disharmony. But the alternative to puzzling over these bemusements (on this weekend's form) is merely to roll the Funk forward to future summits and future cataclysms for Britain. Are there alternatives to mindless lathering about our £2 billion rebate? Of course. One such, drained of emotion, is to remark that £2 billion isn't such a fortune in the Whitehall scheme of things: indeed, that it is the precise investment sum promised last week by BMW if Britain's Rover work-force would toil as long and flexibly as their German counterparts. But, increasingly, the real alternative is hard thinking.

When, over many, deluded years, the septic Tory Party thought that monetary union wouldn't happen, they could talk airily of their own, alternative vision of European development: a free-trade chicken in every pot, a union dancing to Smith Square's tune. But here's one option which is truly closed. It isn't going to happen. The alternative to being part of the Europe we have — no hearts, livers or kidneys — is not being part of it and that alternative is already boned.

ONLY five months ago, Mr Conrad Black, the Canadian owner of the Daily Telegraph, laid it out in detail. Quit the cloying, federalist community. Sign up with the USA, Canada and Mexico as a member of the North American Free Trade Agreement. Home is where your transatlantic heart is. The Telegraph, in a weighty leader, agreed with its owner. A variety of Conservative MPs — and senators in Washington — became greatly excited. From his American base, Mr Rupert Murdoch was reported enthusiastically. Mr Blair set one of his private study teams working. This (picking up from the title of a book I'd just written) became the 51st State alternative.

But where, pray, has it gone? Banjaxed like its eager advocate, Newt Gingrich? Or longer Telegraph policy? Or is the notion of Nafta merely sleeping, to be awakened later on when the heart of Europe rejects its transplant? Come what may, though, it needs to be shaken into life now. Funk is not knowing where to turn next. A debate needs alterna-

tives. This is the alternative of those (like Charles Moore) who denounce Mr Blair most vociferously. Let's put it on the table. Let's see for ourselves.

And the debate about Scotland increasingly runs in curious parallel. More funk and fury. Are the BBC Governors right to hang on to the London News at Six? Are Scottish broadcasters and politicians right to want their own news set to their own agenda? The row has resonance because it picks open the logic of devolution as a transit zone: but the basic debate is not between Jill Dando and Kirsty Wark. It is about Scottish independence. There, another package on the table. What do we think of the referendum?

It is, again, possible to be quite clear-eyed. The status quo, presented to the voters of Scotland at the general election, was no alternative. The Tories who presented it were wiped out. The choice, therefore, is between devolution as endorsed at the referendum or (a half mile down the track) a vote for separation.

Is that such a terrifying prospect? No one is going to war over it. The Scots will always be as interwoven in the life of these islands, and of England, as the Irish. (No barred wire on Fiddlers' Wall.) They will be part of Europe. England will take its own decision. Taxes will rise or fall according to Edinburgh's wishes. Concealed subsidies — like the BBC money the English licence-payer ploughs into Scotland — will end. A choice to be made and a price to be paid; but an alternative, to be laid out in full and put to the democratic test.

And on the morning after.



The alternative to being part of the Europe we have is not being part of it

as in Prague and Bratislava, the world will still go on (if with rather fewer Labour MPs at Westminster). The decision may or may not be desirable, or even sensible. But, as over Europe, it is not life-threatening in its consequences.

There are many more awful choices before us. The alternative to doing nothing about global warming is seeing our great grandchildren fry. The alternative to peace in the Congo and Rwanda and Burundi is death by the million. The alternative to a Europe which doesn't expand its borders is a Europe which corrodes and cracks. The alternative to not pressing the nuclear button is pressing it.

There is an English disease. It is the precise reverse of our self-imaginings. We think of ourselves as calculating and prudent, always planning the big picture because it is the little pictures in a line that matter. But where, then, is the broader perspective? Because we don't look beyond the next corner, we contort in fear over what may lie around it.

And, of course, there is an alternative. It is defining the specifics, not covering them in mists of paranoia. It is laying out the options, not pretending they don't exist. It is confronting what they involve. You could, I suppose, say that that means seeing ourselves for what we are. But this, for the moment, may be an alternative too far.

One of the lads

Endpiece

Roy Hattersley

NEVER underestimate the cunning of the Tory party. Only last Thursday, Francis Maude appeared on Question Time wearing a jacket in another last minute attempt to avoid the scandal which is about to engulf him. But those of us who have been monitoring his behaviour for weeks were not so easily fooled. There on the screen was the evidence which confirmed our suspicions. Underneath his tie, a mass of crumpled cloth wearing a jacket in another last minute attempt to avoid the scandal which is about to engulf him. But those of us who have been monitoring his behaviour for weeks were not so easily fooled. There on the screen was the evidence which confirmed our suspicions. Underneath his tie, a mass of crumpled cloth wearing a jacket in another last minute attempt to avoid the scandal which is about to engulf him. But those of us who have been monitoring his behaviour for weeks were not so easily fooled. There on the screen was the evidence which confirmed our suspicions. 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Prof Ian Loveland, Letters

Prof Ian Loveland, Letters

Clinton and the US need it

This week will present a final chance for Washington to banish the spectre, or surrender to it. On Thursday the House of Representatives will vote on four articles of impeachment, the first time it has faced such a task since 1868. There is, as asserted Congressmen never tire of saying, no more

Perhaps the desperation of the coming days will force the President to change that line, even if it would lay him open to criminal prosecution as a private individual once he leaves office. That would be a great

So in these next few days, outsiders who wish the United States well -- and who would like to see a US president able to visit, say, the Middle East, as Mr Clinton is now, undistracted -- should hope for an outbreak of reason. Either the President ought to say the words those wavering Congressmen need to hear or the House should declare that what Mr Clinton did was wrong, reprehensible even, but because his deceptions arose

Europe's slow train

The north needs a fast link too

Or is it? People in the north of England and Scotland might ask why they are being deprived because Eurostar would lose £9 million when Eurostar's losses from its south-of-England operation to the continent amounted to £150 million last year. Is this loss discrimination? Moreover, the first

In Britain, not only is a new fast cross-national railway completely off the agenda, but we can't even afford to run special trains to Europe on existing track even though Britain has a budget surplus. Has no one asked the numerous cities and local authorities from London to Scouting which stand to benefit whether they would meet the 19 million a year deficit? It is a farce that Britain even now hasn't authorised a fast link from the Channel all the way to London but it is a tragedy that the rest of the country is being deprived of fast access to the centre of Europe which other far-flung European regions take for granted.

War report and a tea break

THE Government deserves high praise for its imaginative and comprehensive tobacco white paper (Report, December 11). The promised increases in cigarette tax will certainly be the most potent weapon in the campaign to reduce smoking related disease. But surely it wasn't produced by the same joined-up Government which is arguing for the retention of cheap, duty free cigarettes, was it? **Donald Reid.**
Chief executive, Association for Public Health.

We do not publish letters where only an e-mail address is supplied; please include a full postal address. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we are unable to acknowledge letters.

able newspapers.

As a version of the American defence has been adopted by the Australian and New Zealand courts, and by the European Court on Human Rights. The rationale in all jurisdictions is that there has been a simple one—in a democratic country it is vital that voters be given as much information as possible about elected politicians so that they can make an informed choice about the acceptability of the government process and of the politicians who control it.

As most journalists and critics of the law would also appreciate, English, Scots and Irish courts have yet to reshape their respective versions of the common law to achieve a similar political purpose. The European jurisdiction can a defendant appeal to the case law of the Euro-

sworn to their reality perhaps, but they are not the Court's business. The Supreme Court jurisprudence. But this would however be an uncertain line of defence for the paper to pursue.

Mr. O'Byrne, it seems that the Birmingham Six have threatened mightily in beginning their action in Dublin rather than London. The reason for this is not immediately apparent, it is not necessarily a winning strategy, cutting British paper in Ireland, the plaintiffs have brought EC law into their libel picture. Their action poses a threat to the EC Commission, which has to sell itself in Ireland and for its Irish readers to buy it. Both rights are guaranteed under the provisions of establishment freedom of EC law. A member state has a right to restrict from those rights is very limited. It is in particular limited

the US Supreme Court, and the plaintiffs began their action in London, no EC law issue would have arisen, as no threat would have been posed by such litigation to the UK's legal process. In fact, it is also likely that, given the primitive state of our political liberal laws, they would have won their action in an English court. This is the point that the defendant plaintiff's "forum shopping" has taken him to the wrong mall. It also offers us a powerful illustration of the way in which the supposedly "un-political" laws of the EC would protect our democratic liberties, and those of the Irish people, much more effectively than our respective national political processes.

Prof Ian Loveland,
Dept of Law,
Brunel University.

The sus laws of mental health

Car crash
YOUR article on the introduction of tolls to reduce

YOU ARE right to say that there is a yuk factor at work over the possibility of human cloning (Leader, December 9) but, as with most o

Research into genetic engineering which is carried out for therapeutic purposes is clearly justified. But, ultimately, it is not for genetics to determine what we mean by human, it is what we mean by human which

human embryo. The former can surely be cultured beneficially for organ transplants. The latter enjoys human rights and should never be experimented upon except for its own good. An embryo is all that you and I once were and I don't think we would like to have been tampered with without our consent.

Rev Francis Marsden.
Adlington,
Lancashire.

YOUR article on the introduction of tolls to reduce traffic congestion (Prescott promises congestion tolls, December 9), and quoting Singa-

This could be coupled with an idea from Hong Kong: no car if you do not have an off-road parking space, both at home and at your destination. Roger S Williams. (Ex senior lecturer, highway engineering), University of Glamorgan.


YOUR piece on various places called Bethlehem (December 12) made interesting reading. There are, of course, several other locations likewise named after Jesus' birthplace but known by the condensed form of "Bethlem." One such named ancient hamlet lies within our parish. When the authorities finally installed place names a few Christmases ago it wasn't long before some was added to the words "Bethlehem with I. U. nacy." Needless to say it was swiftly removed but we do have the photographs. Rev Stephen J. Brown, Ripley, Harrogate.

Last, but not least, the fact is that the duty-free industry was given over five years to make the necessary adjustments to meet the 1992 deadline, plus a further six and a half years to 1999. Time enough, one would have thought.
Tim Hall.
London.

WHILST it is, of course, impossible to guarantee that William Harrison and Jimmy Knapp should be concerned for jobs, their arguments in relation to intra-EU duty-free are flawed, for several reasons.

First, the Single European Act—and hence, the Treaty of Rome—should stipulate that the EU should comprise a single market. Intra-EU duty-free is, of course, a market within a market—and therefore, strictly illegal—which no doubt explains the original 1992 deadline for its abolition.

Second, whilst duty-free may be a good deal for travellers, it is certainly a raw deal

David McKie

WE ARE not far away, I keep reading, from the interactive House. It is just round the corner; it is just down the road. Some trends have already been built, presumably in some vast and echoing laboratory, where scientists in white coats monitor them round the clock. The Interactive House, it is said, will not just be full of robot vacuum cleaners, steer-

All this will be such a service to old and disabled people that I hesitate to challenge its wisdom. Even so: our experience with computers has surely taught us that the mechanical creation can

sometimes be as balky and unpredictable as the animals themselves. Unlike your new Labrador puppy, your new laptop will not chew up slippers and handbags. It may even be predisposed to unquestioning obedience. It will, however, drive you equally spare. One reason is that it has no persistence on doing what you tell it to do, rather than what you mean to tell it to do. It will then bombard you with messages accusing you of carrying out an illegal operation, or even of Fatal Error. You cannot then, as you might with a Labrador puppy, chase it out of the room.

What I can't understand about this project is this. Suppose at the height of some sweltering day in summer, one says to one's wife, "I'm hot. Turn on the air conditioning. It's pretty cold fish, don't you think?" Will not the house, detecting the trigger word "cold," immediately switch on the central heating, light the contrap-

tion that looks like a coal fire, and a cast-iron double-glazed panel to slap back on to the windows? Or if, in a moment of passion one winter night, one partner were to say to the other: "I've got the hots for you," would not the heating switch off, the windows fly open, and the covers over the house begin to whirr?

COULD, however, forgive an interactive house for all that if it went about its work on the basis defined by my dear old mother and no doubt your dear old mother as well: "I'll do everything and everything in its place". Unhappily, apart from one's natural untidiness, there are practical problems in honouring that. One is that, having removed some object from its place, one has to remember where it was that I found it. This goes for almost everything from the Sellotape dispenser to letters from distant relatives. Being, as ever,

pushed for time, I find them a superb home in a pending tray or in a pending basket. Sometimes in moments of stress I feel the whole house is pending. Such objects have no natural lodging or niche. They are permanent refugees. There are certain books that constantly switch from one place to another, then back again, since neither solution satisfies. Logic says one should store one's books on a Dewey classification, as in libraries; but in homes, that is inconvenient. In my house, for instance, biographies of politicians crop up in two places. I remember I was active when I wrote about politics are housed in one room, while lives of Disraeli and Gladstone and that very curious man Monckton are housed with the Austens and Keatses. Some CDs which feature two different composers. The record company thinks I should store my recording of the

string quartets of Debussy and Ravel, and D, since the Debussy comes first on the disc; but I put it among the Rs, because I play the Ravel more often. But that means I tend to neglect the Debussy. A good friend of mine — a professor, so one ought to take his advice — stores his discs in alphabetical order, so that means you have to remember when a composer was born or died.

In any case, would it not be alarming to see books and records and files and yesterday's newspapers whizzing around the place in search of information? I don't know. The house's instructions disturbing the time you have bought by installing this gadgetry to pick your teeth, or thumb through the Radi Times, or have just one more cigarette, or take a little Solitaire? Reluctantly I've concluded that it isn't an Interactive House that I need: it is counselling.

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Lord Grade

The great persuader

LEW GRADE, who has died of heart failure aged 81, was unusual even among showmen in being able to turn a flair for wheeler-dealing into a genuinely creative art. As an agent who imported American stars into the dreary austerity days after the war as well as developing local talent, as an impresario, as a television tycoon with the common touch, he was adept at matching ideas to personalities. That was the flair that enabled him to dominate his world, in a uniquely hands-on way, for more than 40 years.

Even his forays into feature film production had their successes. There was *On Golden Pond* and *The Muppet Movie* to compensate for British cinema's most expensive disaster, *Raise the Titanic*, which cost £36 million and grossed only a derisory fraction of that. "It would have been cheaper," he famously observed, "to lower the Atlantic."

Grade was pear-shaped, 5ft 5ins tall, with piercing and honest blue eyes. He had nerve and cheek, *chutzpah* — and incurable optimism.

Lew Grade was the eldest of the three showbusiness brothers, alongside Bernard Delfont and Leslie Grade and was the leader and trail-blazer. This meant he got on better with Leslie, an introverted figures man, than Delfont, a showman himself whose acceptance of a peerage from Harold Wilson in 1978 was slightly marred by the discovery that Lew, who had been knighted seven years before, had got one too.

"Wealth," said Grade, is about relationships, not money. "This did not prevent Grade being worth £45 million, but the money, he insisted, was a by-product. His life, he maintained, had been made by relationships; and if, at worst, that might have boiled down to scratch-my-back-and-I'll-scratch-yours, it was not only his adored wife Kathie — who he consulted often about his deals — who noted his capacity to light up a room. The journalists he cultivated succumbed not to his Christmas lunches, his bottles of champagne or his expensive cigars but the promise of exciting ventures. He could marry talent to willing, or even unwilling, finance. A typical persuasive

Of his expensive movie flop *Raise the Titanic* he famously observed, "It would have been cheaper to lower the Atlantic"

near Odessa. When Louis was six, the family made the move from impoverishment and poverty to the Tsar's empire to poverty in London's East End.

In his first three months in London Isaac lost almost all his capital. He then took over management of a small cinema — later Raymond's Revue Bar — in Soho's Brewer Street before gravitating to the rag trade.

Meanwhile, the young Louis went to the Rochelle Street school in Shoreditch where he displayed an extraordinary knack for figures. Showbusiness exerted its pull early — he preferred Saturday morning cinema to the synagogue.

Destined for accountancy, he instead was noticed by the man who lived opposite, Alfred Goldstein, an agent who booked artists for the Savoy Hotel's cabaret and his expensive cigars but the promise of exciting ventures. He could marry talent to willing, or even unwilling, finance. A typical persuasive

his father. It soon had eight machines, operating 24 hours a day.

But then there was dancing at the East Ham Palais. It was the 1920s and he shone at the Charleston. "Louis Grad" won the "world solo Charleston championship" at the Albert Hall in 1926, with the showman CB Cochran and Fred Astaire as judges.

He sold the clothing firm and became a professional dancer, "the man with the musical feet". He joined a dance band, expanded his act, and met the agent Joe Collins, father of Joan and Jackie, who got him a job at the Ambassadors club.

Gradually Grade — he had taken the name after a French paper mispelt Grad as Grade when he appeared at the Moulin Rouge — got drawn into Collins' agency. But by 1934 the Charleston was passé, he had water on the knees, and it was time to move on and up. He wanted to be an agency partner, which Collins initially resisted, making him an employee. Grade went to the Continent to get artists, met them at ports with cars, and filled out their tax forms.

It was at this point, with war approaching, that Grade met — as a client — Kathleen Moody, a petite singer for whom he deliberately did not get a part in a show, deeming it too low and risqué for her. After she remarried he arranged for her to appear on an early television show. In 1942 they married at Caxton Hall — the best deal he ever made, said Grade.

During the war, Grade became an implausible soldier in the Royal Signal Corps but was invalided out by the knees again. He also arranged for Mrs Churchill an *Aid to Russia* show at the London Coliseum.

After the war, at around the time his wife suggested he offer his clients cigars, he began smoking them himself. This was, he said, "the real moment Lew Grade was born". He found that a cigar in his mouth or hand gave him confidence and it became his trademark — though, like Winston Churchill, he tended to smoke cigars mostly when cameras were present.

After a row with Collins — by now they were partners — Grade formed his own agency with brother Leslie. Unlike other agents, they put together complete shows. In 1947 they went to the United States to recruit acts, but as unknowns in England and managed to capture just one client. Subsequent visits were more successful: he brought over the singers Lena Horne and Johnny Ray, the comedian Jack Benny and the film actress Dorothy Lamour.

Grade set up offices in New York and California and by the early 1950s his was the biggest agency in Britain. Then in the mid-1950s came commercial television. Grade decided he would do better responding by investing in ATV, which made an initially disastrous start, after which he moved in full-time and made another fortune. It became one of the dominant original television companies — and Grade the dominant



Grade with trademark cigar: the day he took them up was 'the real moment Lew Grade was born'. Though, like Winston Churchill, he tended to smoke them mostly when cameras were present

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILLITOE

started his own film production company, a move which Grade saw as an insult and a threat. Grade moved Gill's eviction from 'the board', which was carried. The two men ended up in a shouting match, with a weeping Gill embracing his old colleague and giving him six months.

In fact he would last a year. Enter the Australian Robert Holmes à Court. He bought 55 per cent of ACC's non-voting shares and expressed his affection and respect for Grade, who welcomed him into his office to watch him conclude telephone deals. Grade also took him to the US to watch him do business there. His description of all this in his autobiography *Still Dancing* (1987) read like a rather sick comic novel of impenetrable self-deception: even when Holmes à Court, on Grade's recommendation, was sold 51 per cent of the voting shares, Grade did not sense the sliver half an inch from his back. He saw it only when the younger man sacked all Grade's personal office staff, including the veteran tea lady, a move which finally made Grade realise he had been gulled.

BUT then the usurper, Holmes à Court, died, premature. With very rare Old Testament severity, Grade commented: "He died quite a young man for all his millions."

Grade, meanwhile, worked first for the US Embassy Communications group as its London chief before establishing his own company, and setting up deals in films and TV. He even bought up 450 of Barbara Cartland's romantic novels and started making films of them. He also re-joined the International Television Corporation, the company he had founded 40 years previously.

Grade was still at work, the bearer of several honours, including the Fellowship of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, in his nineties.

He is survived by Kathie, an adopted son and two grandchildren.

Donna Barker

Lew Grade (Baron Grade of Epsom), impresario, born December 25, 1908; died December 13, 1998



Common touch: Grade, here addressing a press conference at ACC, could light up a room

PHOTOGRAPH: KENNETH SAUNDERS

Appreciation: Tony Tanner

LIKE many an earnest sixth former, I first encountered Tony Tanner (*obituary December 6*) through his sparkling introductions to Penguin Classics editions of Jane Austen's novels. It was as if someone had caught Austen's creative darling for the first time, bringing alive the most perennial of A-level set texts.

When I later became his student, I found in his teaching the same sense that a work of literature was being discovered anew — the same openness to the ever fresh insights that the greatest writing offers. And he had another, rather openness: as an undergraduate, it was extraordinary to find such an erudite teacher who seemed so genuinely interested in one's own muddled ideas and arguments. Tony's former students from Cambridge will simply remember him as a warm, unstuffy, humane

man, full of curiosity about what he was teaching.

His intelligence was never separable from his sense of irony; it is difficult to think of him without seeing his slightly mischievous half-smile. He was devoted to the life of reading and argument, yet saw with amusement the absorbing absurdities of academia. In the sometimes cold and usually rivalrous world of Cambridge, he inspired fierce affection and loyalty.

Those whom, like myself, he supervised as research students will particularly remember his encouragement and generosity of spirit. Never can there have been someone better at reminding you of the bigger picture — at keeping your work clear of mere pedantry or scholarly quarrelsomeness. Tony once told me that re-reading Samuel Richardson's massively long and supremely uneventful novel *Sir Charles Grandison*, merely in order to comment more helpfully on one part of one chapter of my PhD, was the most onerous favour he could ever do me. (Needless to say, this was years later; at the time, he made not a murmur.) In fact, he went on doing more important kindnesses, as he did for other former students.

John Maffei

Many younger academics owe much to his unstinting support over the years. You might lose touch, but you could return to find him next lunchtime in the King's Senior Combination Room and he would light up with interest in your work and life. His warmth was as if you had last parted, convivially, the previous evening. His elegant and intelligent writings are still there for any reader, but it is that warmth that I and others will remember and miss more than anything.

John Maffei

A Country Diary

TITCHWELL, NORFOLK: The expanse of salt marsh to the west of this RSPB reserve is normally a good spot to look for birds of prey — usually involving a hunting barn owl or perhaps the briefly-by of a sparrowhawk. But this was special. A hen harrier slowly quartered the banks and creeks, while above it circled a pair of peregrines.

These falcons were in playful mood. In long powerful loops they flew at their slower and less manoeuvrable rival to force it off. Then they abandoned these assaults for more diverting sport. Wheeling

above the marsh, their tinctive anchor-shaped silhouettes sent out waves of alarm through the thousands of wildfowl and waders that had been feeding on the mudflats. Soon it was pandemonium with bird-clouds all across the sky, twisting and swerving in response to the falcons' movements.

It was an impressive sight and one that is increasingly common in Norfolk. The peregrine's rise in fortunes is one of the great conservation success stories of the past 30 years. Since the ban on organochlorine pesticides and

the reduction of deliberate persecution, the British falcon population has quadrupled to around 1,500 pairs.

With this has come a steady advance from the peregrine's traditional strongholds in the upland areas of the north and west. They have now re-colonised the south coast as far as Kent and down the east coast as far as Flamborough. But will they ever return to breed in Norfolk, as they did in the early 19th century when pairs nested on Corton church steeple and on Hunstanton cliffs?

MARK COCKER

Birthdays

Vijay Amritraj, tennis player, 45; Jane Birkin, film actress, 52; Jill Johns, economist, 36; Dame Ruth Railton, founder National Youth Orchestra, 83; Janette Scott, actress, 60.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

APPROPOS The Godfather (page 3, December 9): Sam Giancana can only be said to have "died peacefully in Chicago" if the definition includes being shot dead. He was murdered. In the notes about Lucky Luciano the reference should have been to the Allied invasion of Sicily rather than the American etc.

THE SKULL described as "Lucy" in a graphic with a report headed, Vital clue in evolution riddle (page 20, December 10), was not Lucy. It was *Plesianthropus transvaalensis*, known affectionately as Mrs Ples, found by Robert Broom at Sterkfontein in 1936.

TURKANA is in Kenya, not in Ethiopia where it was placed in our map (page 20, December 10).

It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Please quote date and page number. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor by telephoning 0171 229 5589 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Surface mail to Readers' Editor, The Guardian, 119, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Fax: 0171 239 9891. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

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In the steps of the Caesars and Napoleon, page 12

Tomorrow: Price pointers at the factory gate

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11

Electronics company may form third leg of challenge to US domination

GEC to join Euroco group



Sir Richard Evans: Second phase talks on Marconi

Don Atkinson

ELECTRONICS group GEC could form the third leg of the planned European defence and aerospace group codenamed Euroco, it emerged yesterday. A three-way partnership with British Aerospace and Germany's DASA would form the core of a consortium which could include French, Spanish, Italian and Swedish companies, with the aim of challenging American domination of the defence and civil aviation sectors.

Sources rejected the suggestion that GEC had "gate-crashed" merger talks between BAE and DASA's parent, DaimlerChrysler. It seems that GEC may have been involved in the discussions for some time.

The nitty-gritty of apportioning stakes in Euroco is proving complex, as is the issue of control. One option thought to be under discussion would have BAE retain its London listing and 40 per cent to 50 per cent of the merged company. DASA shareholders would own the rest, and BAE's voting rights would be reduced to prevent it having more influence than its partner.

The planned £14 billion DASA-BAE merger has been seen as the first step in the creation of Euroco, with new partners joining at later stages. BAE and DASA have been in talks for several months over a full merger, and some expected a deal to be announced this week.

But during the weekend it was reported that the heads of BAE and GE, Sir Richard Evans and Lord Simpson — are thought to have discussed a deal where Marconi Electronics would be added to the new company in a second phase of the merger process.

With European governments cracking the whip for industry mergers, none of the potential Euroco deals is likely to encounter regulatory problems at either the Brussels level or with national governments, which retain final say on mergers connected to national security.

The impetus for merger has come from the creation, from a dozen major American defence companies, of three enormous groups — Lockheed Martin, Boeing and Raytheon.

American Notebook

Net gives retailers a happy Christmas



Mark Tran

WHEN Ron Klemkowski had trouble finding the exact sort of tennis shoes he wanted, he tracked them down on the Net. Now the Baltimore lawyer does most of his shopping in cyberspace, the latest virtual consumer convert.

Without the long wait for information to download. Once the ice is broken with an initial online purchase, a shopper will tend to shop by computer again.

Shoppers are flocking to the Net in growing numbers as concerns about security abate. Increased marketing by Net retailers is making an impact too, and there is no underestimating the power of word of mouth.

Internet retailers now are seeking to persuade to shoppers to buy things for others, rather than simply for themselves.

According to Jupiter, only 16 per cent of online purchases are for presents.

"While online retailers have been successful in capturing dollars that consumers spend on themselves, they have been unsuccessful in getting the majority of those same consumers to spend their gift-dollars online," Jupiter says, holding out the prospect of a yet untapped source of sales.

But amid all this boosterism caution is in order. The test of whether it will translate into the projected billions will come when the inevitable downturn bites. Americans are over-spending because of the wealth effect of a buoyant stock market.

Since 1994, the Standard & Poor 500 has increased by more than 150 per cent, generating \$5 trillion for investors. The problem, warns Stephen Roach, the chief economist at analyst Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, is that consumers are spending as if the bull market were going to continue indefinitely.

Consumers will retrench once the market flags and the economy stalls.

The question then becomes whether Net shopping will have so graced itself on to consumer behaviour that it will retain its mass appeal.

One likely consequence of a market slump is that many Internet retailers — especially the smaller ones — will go to the wall.

For the most part, people resort to the Web not to buy consumer essentials but for expendable items, such as pumpkin-carving kits from Martha Stewart, the lifestyle guru, or African violets. The bloom may well fade from cybershopping in a difficult economic environment.

Still, Internet shopping has more than proved its worth, especially for target buying. Many of the Internet retailers are having a profitable Christmas, and for some it could mark a breakthrough in establishing themselves as a viable Internet brand.

The scary thing for an Internet company like Amazon.com is that it is not expected to turn a profit until 2001, when the American economy is expected to be considerably weaker.

But for the time being, the appearance of new customers such as Mr Klemkowski and his particular kind of shoe are making this a very happy Christmas for Net retailers.

Gartmore swoops after Japanese bank collapses

Jonathan Watts in Tokyo

A BRITISH asset management firm is poised to exploit this weekend's failure of one of Japan's largest banks by taking over a lucrative investment trust joint venture.

With an eye on Japan's vast pool of assets, Gartmore Investment Management, which is an affiliate of National Westminster Bank, is reportedly preparing to buy a controlling interest in the venture from Nippon Credit Bank and other shareholders.

Nippon Credit is in no position to refuse. Japanese financial authorities declared the bank insolvent on Saturday with a capital deficit of \$4.4 billion (2472 million yen).

Using new powers to stabilise the financial system, prime minister Keizo Obuchi announced yesterday that the bank would be temporarily nationalised in order to clear its mountain of bad loans, estimated to be at least 3.2 trillion yen (\$26 billion). Despite protests from the bank's executives, Mr Obuchi said the move was necessary to restore confidence in the Japanese financial system.

After the failure of Long Term Credit Bank in October, Nippon Credit is the second Japanese bank to be placed under state control. Japan's financial system has been in turmoil since the sudden collapse last year of Hokkaido Tokai Bank and Yamaiichi Securities.

The Bank of Japan and the Finance Ministry released statements yesterday to assure investors and depositors that their assets will be safeguarded.

Nippon Credit's stockholders, however, will be hit hard as the government will pay at least 150 yen each last week.

Under the Bank Rehabilitation Law, the nationalised



Obuchi... nationalisation is to restore confidence

Nippon Credit at a glance

Established: 1957. One of the top 50 banks in the world in 1997

Employees: 2,000

Assets: 12.3 trillion yen (\$81.5 billion)

Capital deficit as of March 3: \$4.4 billion yen (\$472 million)

Bad loans: At least 3.2 trillion yen (\$26 billion)

ers, however, will be hit hard as the government will pay at least 150 yen each last week.

Under the Bank Rehabilitation Law, the nationalised

bank's executives will be replaced, its workforce trimmed and its assets sold off.

According to the Nihon Keizai Shimbun, Nippon Trust has already agreed to sell Gartmore its 20 per cent stake in NCG Investment Trust, one of Japan's most successful asset management firms.

Gartmore, which already owns 10 per cent of NCG, is preparing to buy a further 7 per cent share from Yamaiichi and another failed brokerage.

A takeover would bring several benefits for the British firm, which has suffered recently from an exodus of clients in other markets. LCG, one of Japan's 40 largest investment trusts, has assets worth \$5 billion yen (\$25 million) and has built a reputation for expertise in overseas equity markets.

According to an LCG spokesman, the firm's biggest fund racked up 30 per cent growth in the year to August.

Since the start of the government's 'Big Bang' deregulation drive in April, foreign firms have expanded aggressively into Japan's previously closed financial sector.

American firms, such as Merrill Lynch and Travellers, see rich pickings in the ruins of Japan's economy notably the \$10 trillion mountain of individual assets that is mostly sitting in low interest savings accounts.

Gartmore, however, will need a domestic distribution network to take advantage of its position.

For this reason, it is expected to share the ownership of NCG with Chuo Trust, the institution which is seen as most likely to take over a rehabilitated Nippon Credit.



Foreign firms see rich pickings in Japan and Gartmore is set to buy a stake in NCG Investment Trust from the failed Nippon Credit Bank (above) PHOTOGRAPH: KATSUMI KASAHARA

City waits to absorb key indicators

Charlotte Denny and Laurie Laird

CHRISTMAS may be just over the horizon but the City's economic gurus won't be taking their eyes off the screen to do their shopping with key indicators released this week.

Today producer price figures for November will give the first indication of inflationary pressures in the economy last month. Tomorrow the Retail Price Index for November will reveal whether the Bank of England has managed to hit its target for inflation of 2.5 per cent again.

TODAY - Interims: Drugg Holdings, Europower, NRP Physu, Shield Diagnostics.

Finals: API Group, Hardy & Hansons, Fountain Forestry, Kinick, Vaux Group.

TOMORROW - Interims: Bedleys, Bousted, Computeland, MFI Furniture.

Finals: First Choice Holidays, Hawtin, Leeds Group.

WEDNESDAY - Interims: Baggeridge Brick, Phonelink, Carpetright.

Finals: Securicon.

THURSDAY - Interims: Asda, Jones Stroud Holdings, McKay Securities, Universal Salvage.

Finals: Legal & General Recovery Investment Trust.

FRIDAY - Interims: Maconic.

Opec export controls in disarray

Producers ignore moves to pump up oil prices from 12-year low

Charlotte Denny and Dan Atkinson

EFFORTS by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries to pump up the price of oil were in disarray yesterday after some producers rejected calls for a halt to exports.

Libya proposed the emergency measure at a meeting of Persian Gulf oil exporters in Cairo on Saturday after oil prices slumped to a 12-year low in trading last week.

In real terms, the commodity is now at its cheapest since the first oil shock of 1973.

In a separate development, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela and non-Opec member Mexico announced that they will meet next week in Madrid to discuss ways of stemming the world oil glut.

Qatar's oil minister, Abdullah bin Hamad al-Attiyah, said the producers had rejected

ed Libya's plan because it was very difficult from a technical point of view to prohibit countries exporting.

But analysts said an immediate halt to sales abroad would be more effective than trying to get countries to adhere to production cuts.

Cheating has derailed Opec's efforts to cut so far this year.

"No one will say yes," said Mohammed Abduljabbar, a senior adviser with the Petroleum Finance Company, based in Washington. "But it would be a very effective way of absorbing the oil glut and forcing countries to comply as cheating would be very easy to detect," he said.

Production levels will be on the agenda again at next week's Madrid meeting, with Saudi Arabia rumoured to favour further cuts if prices continue at crisis levels.

But two earlier rounds of cuts this year have failed to

boost the price after many countries failed to keep to the agreement. Venezuela is one of the chief culprits, and an agreement with Saudi Arabia and Venezuela in Spain next week is seen as crucial to the future of any new measures to prop up oil prices.

Elsewhere, British Aerospace, which is paid in crude oil by the Saudi government for the \$2 billion a year Al-Yamama package of Tornados and Hawk aircraft, said yesterday that its full-year figures for 1998 would be boosted by a cash compensation payment from the Saudis to make up for the sliding oil price.

BAE's half-year figures, reported a drop in its cash holdings, caused by lower oil prices. But Saudi Arabia is contracted to make up the difference whenever the value of the oil supplied falls short of the cost of the aircraft.

Meanwhile oil group Shell, which has much criticised for top-heavy management and a sprawling portfolio of assets, was reported to be planning to unveil later today a package of job cuts, along with a write

down in asset values and a schedule of businesses it is to put up for sale.

Shell, which last week moved to replace its system of management by committee with a more dynamic structure, was thought likely to add to the 6,000 jobs already earmarked for the axe.

Speculation continued on the possibility of a bid for Chevron, which was last week rumoured to be the target of a planned bid from Shell.

Marathon's finance chief, Martin Klitten, told Bloomberg news agency that a merger would be pointless unless it unleashed new growth potential, but analysts said Chevron had to find some way to combat its earnings slump.

American analysts and industry executives expect low oil prices to persist next year because of slack Asian demand and a worldwide glut.

Crude oil on the New York Mercantile Exchange closed at \$10.79 a barrel on Friday, down more than 40 per cent in the past year.

Apprehensive banks warn managers off tobacco stocks

Lee Stuart

INVESTMENT banks, nervous about the results of this week's landmark High Court hearing brought by 53 cancer victims, are instructing fund managers not to buy tobacco stocks.

HSBC has circulated a memo warning off further investment in Gallaher, producer of Silk Cut, and Imperial Tobacco, which makes Lambert & Butler, both defendants in the case which could lead to the companies paying millions of pounds in compensation to sufferers of smoking-related diseases.

The bank is recommending that its recommendation on Gallaher and Imperial be downgraded to hold because of what may be unwelcome newsflow.

The hearing, scheduled to finish on Wednesday, is the first legal hurdle in the fight to bring the tobacco companies to trial. It will decide whether the action can go ahead even though it is out of time. If so, the full trial will take place in January 2000.

The 53 allege that the companies, between 1957 and 1971, negligently failed to sufficiently reduce the tar yield of their cigarettes.

Move to deter Barclays bids

Jill Treanor

THE competition authorities are believed to be deterring rival clearing banks from bidding for Barclays. The City believes the bank is vulnerable to a bid after the shock departure of chief executive Martin Taylor last month.

The difficulties facing potential predators are expected to frustrate shareholders in Barclays. They have told Sir Peter Middleton, the temporary chief executive, that they want the bank to spin off its troublesome investment banking business and find a partner for the remaining retail arm.

Acquisition-hungry Lloyds TSB is thought to have ruled out an approach on monopoly grounds. Even before the acquisition of Barclays, Lloyds TSB already has a 16 per cent share of the business banking market while both are giants on the high street. Lloyds has a share of 30 per cent of retail accounts while in the small business sector Barclays controls about 25 per cent of the market which rises to 30 per cent for the medium sized businesses.

An approach from NatWest, which Mr Taylor approached last year — would face similar difficulties. City experts say "Barclays or the

Prudential might be less of a problem," one senior banker said yesterday though Halifax reportedly decided against a tie-up with a clearing bank.

All of the City's leading financial institutions have hired teams of investment bankers to scrutinise their rivals with a view to making bid approaches.

HSBC — owner of Midland — and Lloyds TSB stand out as the country's biggest banks while Barclays, Halifax, NatWest and Abbey National are all of a similar size and jostle for the third slot.

The Office of Fair Trading would look at bids where they were concerned that the combined entity had a 35 per cent share of the market. The OFT can define the market at its own discretion, so for instance could look at small businesses as a single market. The OFT would then advise Peter Mandelson, Trade and Industry Secretary of its conclusion.

The OFT last night refused to comment on the reports that it has scrutinised potential bids for Barclays.

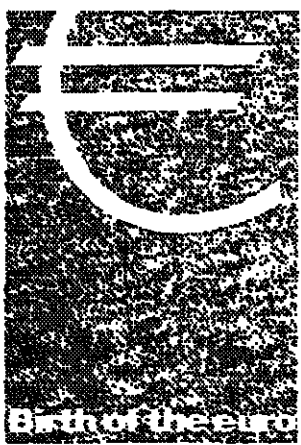
Senior bankers warn that the Government appears to be taking an active interest in their industry and cite the recent appointment of Don Cruickshank, the former telecoms regulator, to investigate the banking industry.

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The single currency



In the first of a series on European monetary union, which begins on January 1, **Larry Elliott** adds up the pluses and minuses

Risky trip to dollar rivalry

TO SAY the least, it has not been an easy birth. There have been times when it looked like a phantom pregnancy, others when this child of France and Germany threatened to be stillborn. But finally gestation is over and the euro is due to come kicking and screaming in the world.

Make no mistake, this is a historic event. Whether enthusiast or sceptic, the birth of the single currency is a big, big moment for Europe — the biggest since the Marshall Plan laid the foundations for recovery in the aftermath of the second world war.

The single currency has a long lineage. The Romans had one currency in their empire, but later attempts to turn Europe into a united economy by force failed.

Helmut Kohl has succeeded by peaceful means where Napoleon and Hitler did not by conquest. In the scale of its ambition, the euro project is staggering. Put aside the fact that for the first three years of its life the infant euro will be a virtual currency, with notes and coins only available from 2002 onwards.

From day one, the Euro-

pean Central Bank will set a single interest rate for the entire euro-zone and its 11 currencies will be irrevocably fixed. Should some find the going tough, they will no longer have the option to alter borrowing costs or allow their currencies to take the strain.

The \$64,000 question is whether the euro will work. Supporters argue that in an era of global economic forces, only the large and powerful can survive. Mr Kohl's devotion to the project stems from his belief that "the nation state cannot solve the great problems of the 21st century."

John Laughland, in his Eurosceptic tome, *The Tainted Source*, concludes: "Faced with declining competitiveness, low growth, mass unemployment, and sclerotic and often corrupt political structures, European countries are undertaking to reproduce their present systems at a supranational level, rather than to reform at home."

What is true is that the euro will cut transaction costs and, more important, eliminate currency risk. Most big firms hedge against exchange-rate fluctuations, but a lot of smaller enterprises find the cost prohibitive. There are those,



like the Confederation of British Industry's Adair Turner, who believe the promise of exchange-rate stability outweighs any loss of interest-rate flexibility.

A second possible advantage is that Europe will be able to reap the full benefit of the single market, with greater transparency leading to real gains for consumers. Economies of scale will lead to higher levels of growth.

Third, the experience of the United States suggests that over time the euro will reshape Europe's economic geography. Whereas each European Union member has a presence across the spectrum of industrial products, each country will become reliant on fewer products, in the same way American car production is concentrated in the Great Lakes States.

So if all goes according to plan, monetary union will lay the foundations for the renaissance of Europe's economy after 25 years of underperformance, which has seen the EU's growth-rate drop from 3 per cent a year in the 1970s to 1.8 per cent in the 1990s.

What is more, Europe will be able to challenge the eco-

nomie and political hegemony of the United States.

The ECB will ensure low inflation. Monetary stability will be buttressed by the Stability Pact, which, by setting rules for deficits, will give governments the wherewithal to run counter-cyclical fiscal policies. Consumers will benefit from lower prices and the

end, bring about broad convergence across the union.

There is a big assumption, for it is clear the monetary policy needed for the Franco-German core is inappropriate for the Republic of Ireland. Suggestions that the single currency is more about politics than economics tend to be met with determinism, com-

from the people. There will be no chance for parliaments to grill the Bank's governor, Wim Duisenberg, and board members will sit for only one, fixed term. But what will happen in a country such as Spain — which has very high unemployment — when the ECB decides that conditions across Europe warrant higher rates?

The risk is that the single currency falls because it has been designed for the challenges of a previous era of inflation. Prices are falling across much of Europe, yet the ECB has an inflation target of 2.5 per cent, and has to explain its actions should the actual rate deviate from that central rate. The ECB has no such safeguard, but is simply required to keep inflation below 2 per cent. Given that inflation is set to stay low, this is plain daft.

Recent wrangling about tax harmonisation misses the point. What the new breed of left-leaning finance ministers should be concentrating on is not standardising taxation, but reforming ECB statutes and ensuring fiscal and monetary policy work in tandem.

The deflationary bias of the ECB could lead to poor growth and impatience among politicians. To limit electoral fallout governments might then take off the fiscal brakes, pushing up public spending. The ECB might respond by keeping rates higher, leaving Europe with a combination of tight monetary and loose fiscal policy — the opposite of what it needs.

The practical problem is how to prevent the euro from becoming too strong too early. Europe is running a healthy current account surplus and being touted as a rival reserve to the dollar. There will almost certainly be some rebalancing of portfolios internationally, and this will have the effect of weakening a US currency that already looks vulnerable. A strong euro would be good for the credibility of the ECB, but disastrous for growth.

These risks cannot be wished away. Denis Healey, an impossible Europhile, believes the euro will collapse in a year. That is pushing it, but hopes that Europe would remain untouched by the global slowdown now look a bit forlorn. On January 1, the euro will be a bumpy baby but its childhood may prove difficult.

There are really three risks — political, economic, and practical

single market will unleash improvements that will boost the EU growth rate and eat into its unemployment mountain.

That said, monetary union remains a risk. Less evangelist euro supporters admit they would have preferred the single currency to have been limited to a core of congruent economies. But the belief is that national differences can be overcome, and that fast growth among those on the EU periphery are an example of catch-up which will, in the

A brief history of the union

1950: Robert Schuman's plan, proposing creation of European Coal and Steel Community involving France, Germany, Italy and the Benelux countries

1951: Treaty of Paris, creating ECSC, signed

1957: The six sign the Treaty of Rome, setting up the European Economic Community

1958: Treaty of Rome comes into force, European Commission established

1960: European Free Trade Association agreement, involving Britain, Switzerland, Austria, Denmark, Norway, Portugal and Sweden

1963: De Gaulle, right, vetoes Britain's membership of the EC, saying: "Not, not, not"

1964: Euro six set up committee of central bank governors

1965: De Gaulle sparks the "empty chair crisis" over opposition to majority voting

1966: The Luxembourg compromise effectively establishes the right of veto

1968: Completion of customs union

1969: Werner report outlines three-point blueprint for economic and monetary union

1972: Paris summit sets 1980 target date for economic and monetary union

1972: European currency "snake" — an attempt to reduce currency volatility while retaining some flexibility

1973: Oil price shock sinks Werner report approach to economic and monetary union

1974: Referendum endorses British membership of EEC

1978: European monetary system introduced to replace "snake"

1980: Commission launches single market initiative

1986: Single European Act signed

1988: Heads of state accept report by Delors, right, on economic and monetary union

1992: Maastricht treaty signed; Dances reject Maastricht. Britain and Italy blown out of exchange rate mechanism

1993: ERM effectively falls apart under speculative pressures in foreign exchange market

1994: Stage two of monetary union starts. European Monetary Institute set up

1995: Single currency to be known henceforth as the euro

1997: Stage three postponed; too few nations countries meet Maastricht criteria

1998: Eleven countries meet criteria

1999: Euro introduced

2002: Euro notes and coins introduced, national currencies withdrawn

Don't be lost for words in great debate

Worm's eye
Dan Atkinson

IT ISN'T easy to master the ins and outs of the about-to-be-launched European single currency, the euro. But armed with this handy checklist, you can hold your own in the great debate.

The euro will, for the first time, give the people of Europe a currency to match

the dollar. And a deficit to go with it.

Let us look at the pros and the cons. Then join any way.

But any decision about joining is still some way away. Some way away in the past.

Transaction costs ... barrier to exports ... only 50p left after changing £100 into the difference currencies ... staggering burden for industry. This is the mendacious technical bit.

Grand design ... great ad-

venture ... our young people ... inspiring vision: The bogus romantic idealist bit.

Britain ... pitiful stance on the sidelines ... miserable, country rotten food, football hooligans. The my country wrong or wrong bit.

What we need from the Government on this issue is courage and leadership. Forget it.

Make no mistake, there is no question of a Euro income tax. No question at all. It's been decided.

Nor of some sort of European tax police. That'll be two dozen helicopters, a couple of hundred rapid-pursuit vehicles and 500 automatic carbines, please.

Were Britain to join, adjustments would have to be made: Roll on five million unemployed.

Some of these adjustments would be painful: The wage cuts, for example.

It is a question of careful cost-benefit analysis. Which we refuse to authorise.

Of course, a great project such as the single currency cannot be assessed purely in monetary terms. See?

The key issue is the extent of the real British indignity, so does the Bank of England. People accept the decisions made on monetary policy by these institutions even when they are unpopular.

The ECB has no such legitimacy. It was set up with the express intention of keeping monetary policy divorced

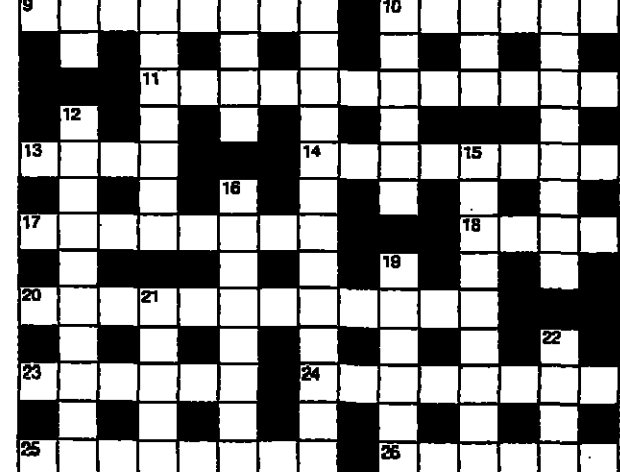
from the people. There will be no chance for parliaments to grill the Bank's governor, Wim Duisenberg, and board members will sit for only one, fixed term. But what will happen in a country such as Spain — which has very high unemployment — when the ECB decides that conditions across Europe warrant higher rates?

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Guardian Crossword No 21,457

Set by Rufus



- Across**
- 1 A service the abstainer takes comfort in (3,3)
 - 2 A line of washing? (8)
 - 3 May be fired when her plans go awry (8)
 - 4 Father in pain, but brave (6)
 - 5 Bishop Latimer on top form (12)
 - 6 Restricted sort of diet (4)
 - 7 One ordered to be silent (8)
 - 8 Cat's coat poorly clipped (8)
 - 9 It's made to measure (4)
 - 10 Current problem in old houses? (12)
 - 11 Maximum effort at the end of the innings (3,3)
 - 12 Idleness indeed (8)
 - 13 Just a moment! (3,5)
 - 14 He attacks the copper with acid (6)
- Down**
- 1 Sound of their own voices heartens the choir (4)
 - 2 Faulty compass I'd disconnected (9)
 - 3 A number set about forming principles (6)
 - 4 Victorian's London and Paris account (4,2,3,8)
 - 5 Help over a long wiggly line (8)
 - 6 Bohemian girl goes round a Florida resort (10)
 - 7 Show trials (10)
 - 8 The cold buffet is a great disappointment (5,4)
 - 9 Like mistletoe? Patricia's going out for it (8)
 - 10 Unfortunate epic that arouses pity (8)
 - 11 Report some soldiers delayed (6)
 - 12 Turnabout in the vessel (1-4)
 - 13 Steal note to obtain dress (4)

WINNERS OF PRIZE PUZZLE 21,457

This week's winners of a Collins English Millennium Dictionary are Douglas Macdonald of Severnside, Kent, R. R. Ray of Woking, Surrey, Mrs. S. E. Williams of Liverpool, Alison J. Taylor of Brighton, East Sussex, and Anne Watts of Pinner, Middlesex.

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Chance to pit your wits against experts

Charlotte Denny

MICHAEL Fish of the Met Office will be forever remembered as the weather forecaster who told the public that there was no need to worry about the hurricane of 1987 just before it hit the country. The storm that has swept through the world's markets over the past 18 months has left economic forecasters equally wrong-footed.

Earlier this week, the International Monetary Fund was forced to acknowledge that for the second year in a row it will be issuing an interim forecast in December — less than two months since its last effort — which will revise down its estimates for world growth next year.

Back in Britain, the Treasury's estimates for UK growth next year of between 1 to 1.5 per cent have been dismissed as optimistic by many



City forecasters. With the professionals in confusion, we once again invite readers to join our annual forecasting competition and pit their wits against the official number crunchers.

Send in your best guesses about the shape of the economy in 1999 and you could win \$500-worth of book tokens from Macmillan, leading publishers of textbooks, academic and professional books, as well as the traditional mug of champagne and the chance to have lunch with The Guardian's economics team.

We are looking for the most accurate forecast of key economic indicators — growth,

interest rates, underlying inflation, unemployment, the current account and the exchange rate. Your forecast should contain the following:

- Annual percentage growth in GDP in 1999.
- Bank base lending rate on December 31, 1999.
- Inflation, excluding mortgage repayments.
- Total unemployment in December 1999 — seasonally adjusted claimant count (numbers not the rate).
- The UK current account in 1999.
- Sterling's value against the German mark on December 31, 1999.

We will explain the points-scoring system in detail next week and winners will be decided when the first estimate of 1999 GDP is available, in early 2000.

Fears that the economy may be about to fall off the cliff have already prompted the Bank of England to cut

base rates by 1.25 percentage points since October, bringing the cost of borrowing down to 6.25 per cent — where it was when the Chancellor put Threadneedle Street in charge in June last year. Now the question is, how low can they go? Some experts are already predicting base rates may halve to converge on European levels by the end of 1999.

The Bank thinks underlying inflation — excluding mortgage interest costs — will hit 2.5 per cent by the end of next year but they would say that, wouldn't they, given that it is the target the Government has set them.

Meanwhile, the jobless total has already begun to blip upwards, rising by 7,000 in October to 1,319,000. When the economy last moved into recession in 1991, 625,000 jobs were lost over the year.

In 1997, Britain recorded its first current account surplus for 13 years. That seems likely

to be reversed this year and next but how wide will the gap be between inflows and outflows of trade and investment?

Finally, sterling has yet to regain levels which manufacturers would be comfortable with, trading at around 2.70-2.80 for most of this year. Will this continue next year or will the launch of the Euro remove the last of the pound's safe haven status?

Alternatively, some pundits think the launch of EMU will continue to prop up Britain's currency as investors use the pound as means of diversifying out the single currency.

So what do you think? Write your answers on the back of a postcard and send them to: Guardian Economics Competition, Economics Desk, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. The usual Guardian competition rules apply and the deadline for entries is February 1.

PARTING SHOT

Hand-to-hand combat... Lee Holland of Ely, left, gets to grips with Derby's Steve 'Sumo' Pateman in the left-hand over-the-shoulder division of the British Arm Wrestling Championships at the White Hart in Brentwood. Holland won the bout and went on to finish fourth in his class

Photograph by Tom Jenkins



Seeing the clock took me back...

SCREEN BREAK

Martin Kelner

A FRIEND of mine, a Manchester City fan, is having a great season. His trick is to avoid, as far as he can, all coverage of current soccer, restricting his viewing instead to the rash of programmes celebrating old matches. He cannot believe how well City are playing.

One afternoon last week they gave Spurs a real hiding, with Bell, Lee and Summerbee in devastating form. I am not sure how they fared against Liverpool a few days later but I

should imagine it was more fun than Saturday's real-life 0-0 draw at home to Bristol Rovers. Living in the past is not something with which City fans usually require much assistance (West Brom's followers will know how they feel) but for those too young to remember, and for others who find looking back almost as painful as looking forward, Match of the Day Greats, John Motson's new afternoon delight on BBC2, is a useful aide memoire.

The programme also acts as vivid proof that the past is a foreign country, where they do things differently. This was not, I ought to add, the assessment of Motson. There is no attempt at poetry in presenting the old soccer, neither even at analysis. Motson simply sits in an armchair looking a little flustered and uneasy, and they roll VT. The matches are largely speak for themselves, or at least provoke so many memories that one's private reverie acts as commentary on the action. And what a reverie, as the old terrace chant used to go.

They showed a 1978 match between Sheffield United and Sunderland and, for me at least, the sight of supporters on the terraces with scarves tied to their wrists sparked off a chain of Proustian recollection encompassing Blonde, early Grande Hill and a girl I used to go out with from the local weekly newspaper.

Should you be of an age, there will have been similar moments that did it for you. The Bramall Lane clock showing 4.40pm as the match drew to a close brought a lump to my throat for some reason. That is the way nostalgia works, I suspect.

The sexiness of Seventies soccer shirts and hairstyles, which reached its apotheosis in Argentina's World Cup triumph a few months earlier, has already been well documented but Peter Anderson of Sheffield United, Gerry Armstrong (Spurs) and Brendan Batson (West Brom) from the second featured match deserve honourable mentions for persisting with the Afro/shaggy style that looked fine in a Buenos Aires summer but faintly ridiculous in an English winter.

There was an Argentinian in United's side, Alex Sabella, who never really thrived in the aggressive macho atmosphere of Argentine soccer here. His nationality was always too much of an issue, apparently from Motson's commentary. When Sabella beat a man, it was "a piece of magic there, right out of Buenos Aires" and, when Sabella left at the end, Motson described him as "a credit to his country".

United's manager Harry Haslam, in his post-match interview for which he wore what looked like a chain-store suit (my colleague David Tackle would find the concept of devising a coherent team plan, while wearing an outfit bought in Burton's sale, impossible to grasp) praised Sabella, pointing out "his conversation is getting longer". I presume this particular United match was chosen as it was one of Sabella's better performances but what I find refreshing about Match of the Day Greats is that the title is not taken too literally.

An Everton-Liverpool match, also from 1978, was far from great but typical of its era, pre-Heyes and pre-Hillsborough. Some 54,000 were packed into Goodison, a great ebb tide on the terraces. Few of them, I suspect, were girls, grounds in those days being somewhat short on refinements like agreeable wine bars and toilets.

This was a particularly lame-brained male match, with late tackles flying in all over the place, but I was impressed with how little fuss the players made when sinning against.

There were no replays of the bad tackles, which surprised me, and I had also forgotten just how irritating Motson's commentary used to be. Now, of course, Motson is a national institution, but shrined in all his sheepskin-coated cuddliness, a sort of Anorak Laureate. He used to scream things like: "Andy King the scorer. Seven is his number. And seven years it is since this happened."

Listening to this again is nostalgia in a bad way. City Rollers sense but, like my friend says, it is good to lose yourself in the past from time to time, at least he is bitterly disappointed that Colin Bell failed to win last night's Sports Personality of the Year award.

Weekend results

RUGBY UNION

EUROPEAN CUP

Quarter-finals
Perpignan 34 Llanelli 17
Stade Francaise 71 Pontypridd 14
Colonnies 23 Munster 9
Semi-finals
Llanelli 17 Perpignan 17
Munster 14 Colonnies 14
Final
Llanelli 17 Munster 14

EUROPEAN SHIELD

Quarter-finals
Brive 4 Caennepilly 12
Narbonne 30 Pau 13
Bordeaux 22 Agen 13
Montpellier 6 Dax 13
Semi-finals
Brive 12 Caennepilly 12
Narbonne 13 Pau 13
Bordeaux 13 Agen 13
Montpellier 13 Dax 13
Final
Brive 12 Caennepilly 12

ALLIED DUNBAR

Quarter-finals
Bath 9 Northampton 16
Bedford 10 Worcester 10
Leicester 10 Worcester 10
London Scottish 10 Worcester 10
Semi-finals
Bath 9 Northampton 16
Bedford 10 Worcester 10
Leicester 10 Worcester 10
London Scottish 10 Worcester 10
Final
Bath 9 Northampton 16

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Scoreboard

Mark Butcher and Headley no benefit of the doubt whatever. And the third umpire, Paul Angley—who has only ever stood in a couple of first-class matches—gave his only decision, against Michael Atherton, in what was probably a blind panic.

Steve Bucknor, the master of the slow death, has taken more time over some of his decisions on the field than Angley. Look looking at the time he took to give Mark Taylor's slip catch.

Of Australia's two top umpires, Steve Randall is suspended while under indictment for alleged sexual offences, and Darrell Hair has had to pull out of the forthcoming matches with Sri Lanka because of his views on Muraltitharan's bowling action. Below them the standard seems very poor.

What players should do, what players do when middle-age kicks in: retire from the battle and concentrate on what we do best. We should become a nation of umpires, benignly supervising a game everyone else now plays much better than us.

YOUSAF YOHANNA underlined his growing reputation yesterday with an elegant maiden Test century to give Pakistan a substantial first-innings lead against India in the second Test against Zimbabwe in Lahore. The loss of the final session through bad light, however, left the match, already blighted by the elements, apparently set to end in a tactical, frustrating stalemate. Efforts to level the three-Test series.

Play was called off at tea when heavy mist enveloped the stadium. Zimbabwe were then 48 without loss and 100-0 in 100 minutes, still 94 in arrears after eight hours and 23 minutes have so far been lost, fog having restricted proceedings to 13 overs on day three.

Yousaf, playing in his second Test, had an undefeated 120 before Pakistan declared at 325 for nine in reply to Zimbabwe's 183.

Resuming on 46 out of 215 for five, Yohanna collected 15 fours and a six in a 206-ball innings spanning 306 minutes. Impressive indeed was the way he orchestrated his attack, with the ball. Olunga had picked up three wickets in 20 balls soon after the start, dominating a ninth-wicket stand of 66 with Sheeb Akhtar (11) before adding 50 with Waqar Hussain, unbeaten on 24.

Yousaf's partner, Moin Khan, having added a single to his overnight 24 was trapped leg before Olunga then had Wasim Akram (2) held by Jagan Asekaram slip and bowled Sagor Sengupta for a duck as Pakistan slipped to 215 for eight.

Olunga finished with three for 63 while Nel Johnson enhanced the excellent impression he made on his maiden Test by taking 2 for 71. Adam Huckle, the leg-spinner claimed two for 40.

MANCHESTER Storm's game against Bracknell Bees, which ended in a 4-1 win for the visiting Superleague leaders, erupted in violence when the Storm's Rick Brebant crosschecked the Bees former NHL winger Denis Chasse and was then punched to the ice.

Storm were already 3-1 ahead, with two goals from Jeff Jablonski and one by Pierre Allard, when the flare-up occurred in the 44th minute.

The ensuing melee led to Bracknell's Chris Brant and Brebant receiving a double minor (four minutes) penalty for "roughing". The Storm player said collecting an addi-

So where did he put Woods? At No. 11, which meant that for the alleged best player in the world to have any effect on the result, America would have had to have performed the unlikely feat of winning nine of the first 10 matches. Furthermore, Love went out ninth and O'Meara last, which in terms of dissipating your resources is about as good as you can do.

[Faint, illegible text]

FA Carling Premiership

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Aston Villa	17	6	2	1	17	11	3	4	1	10	6	10	33
Man Utd	16	6	2	0	21	8	2	4	2	12	11	14	30
Chelsea	16	5	3	0	13	5	2	5	1	13	11	10	29
Middlesbrough	17	4	5	0	15	7	2	4	2	12	12	8	27
Leeds	16	5	2	1	14	3	1	6	1	12	11	12	26
Arsenal	17	4	4	0	11	3	2	4	3	6	7	7	26
West Ham	17	4	3	1	12	9	3	2	4	8	12	-1	26
Wimbledon	17	5	3	1	14	9	2	2	4	8	17	-4	26
Leicester	17	5	2	2	14	9	1	4	3	7	10	2	24
Derby	17	2	5	2	8	8	3	3	2	9	8	1	23
Tottenham	17	4	3	2	15	15	2	2	4	8	11	-3	23
Liverpool	17	3	3	2	15	10	3	1	5	12	12	5	22
Sheff Wed	17	5	2	2	13	5	1	2	5	7	12	3	22
Everton	17	2	5	2	3	5	3	2	3	8	10	-4	22
Newcastle	17	4	2	2	13	10	1	4	4	8	11	0	21
Charlton	17	2	3	2	13	8	1	4	5	9	19	-5	16
Coventry	16	3	2	3	9	10	1	1	6	5	13	-9	15
Blackburn	17	3	2	4	10	10	0	2	6	5	14	-9	13
Nottm Forest	17	1	4	3	6	9	1	1	7	9	21	-15	11
Southampton	17	1	2	5	9	17	1	2	6	3	17	-22	10

Premiership results

Home	Away	Score	Notes
Aston Villa	Sheff Wed	2-1	Sheff Wed goal by Paul Jones (45th min).
Man Utd	Leeds	2-0	Man Utd goals by Andy Cole (15th min) and David Beckham (70th min).
Chelsea	Leicester	1-0	Chelsea goal by Michael Owen (80th min).
Middlesbrough	Derby	1-0	Middlesbrough goal by Kevin Phillips (70th min).
Leeds	Wimbledon	1-0	Leeds goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Arsenal	West Ham	1-0	Arsenal goal by Dennis Bergkamp (70th min).
West Ham	Wimbledon	1-0	West Ham goal by Alan Smith (70th min).
Wimbledon	Leicester	1-0	Wimbledon goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Leicester	Derby	1-0	Leicester goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Derby	Tottenham	1-0	Derby goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Tottenham	Liverpool	1-0	Tottenham goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Liverpool	Sheff Wed	1-0	Liverpool goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Sheff Wed	Everton	1-0	Sheff Wed goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Everton	Newcastle	1-0	Everton goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Newcastle	Charlton	1-0	Newcastle goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Charlton	Coventry	1-0	Charlton goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Coventry	Blackburn	1-0	Coventry goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Blackburn	Nottm Forest	1-0	Blackburn goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Nottm Forest	Southampton	1-0	Nottm Forest goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).

Non-league

Home	Away	Score	Notes
Accrington	Barrow	1-0	Accrington goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Barrow	Carlisle	1-0	Barrow goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Carlisle	Grimsby	1-0	Carlisle goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Grimsby	Leeds	1-0	Grimsby goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Leeds	Sheff Wed	1-0	Leeds goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Sheff Wed	Wimbledon	1-0	Sheff Wed goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Wimbledon	Leicester	1-0	Wimbledon goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Leicester	Derby	1-0	Leicester goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Derby	Tottenham	1-0	Derby goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Tottenham	Liverpool	1-0	Tottenham goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Liverpool	Sheff Wed	1-0	Liverpool goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Sheff Wed	Everton	1-0	Sheff Wed goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Everton	Newcastle	1-0	Everton goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Newcastle	Charlton	1-0	Newcastle goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Charlton	Coventry	1-0	Charlton goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Coventry	Blackburn	1-0	Coventry goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Blackburn	Nottm Forest	1-0	Blackburn goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Nottm Forest	Southampton	1-0	Nottm Forest goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).

Nationwide League

Home	Away	Score	Notes
Accrington	Barrow	1-0	Accrington goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Barrow	Carlisle	1-0	Barrow goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Carlisle	Grimsby	1-0	Carlisle goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Grimsby	Leeds	1-0	Grimsby goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Leeds	Sheff Wed	1-0	Leeds goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Sheff Wed	Wimbledon	1-0	Sheff Wed goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Wimbledon	Leicester	1-0	Wimbledon goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Leicester	Derby	1-0	Leicester goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Derby	Tottenham	1-0	Derby goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Tottenham	Liverpool	1-0	Tottenham goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Liverpool	Sheff Wed	1-0	Liverpool goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Sheff Wed	Everton	1-0	Sheff Wed goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Everton	Newcastle	1-0	Everton goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Newcastle	Charlton	1-0	Newcastle goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Charlton	Coventry	1-0	Charlton goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Coventry	Blackburn	1-0	Coventry goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Blackburn	Nottm Forest	1-0	Blackburn goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Nottm Forest	Southampton	1-0	Nottm Forest goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).

Scotland

Home	Away	Score	Notes
Accrington	Barrow	1-0	Accrington goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Barrow	Carlisle	1-0	Barrow goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Carlisle	Grimsby	1-0	Carlisle goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Grimsby	Leeds	1-0	Grimsby goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Leeds	Sheff Wed	1-0	Leeds goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Sheff Wed	Wimbledon	1-0	Sheff Wed goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Wimbledon	Leicester	1-0	Wimbledon goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Leicester	Derby	1-0	Leicester goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Derby	Tottenham	1-0	Derby goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Tottenham	Liverpool	1-0	Tottenham goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Liverpool	Sheff Wed	1-0	Liverpool goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Sheff Wed	Everton	1-0	Sheff Wed goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Everton	Newcastle	1-0	Everton goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Newcastle	Charlton	1-0	Newcastle goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Charlton	Coventry	1-0	Charlton goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Coventry	Blackburn	1-0	Coventry goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Blackburn	Nottm Forest	1-0	Blackburn goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Nottm Forest	Southampton	1-0	Nottm Forest goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).

Europe

Home	Away	Score	Notes
Accrington	Barrow	1-0	Accrington goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Barrow	Carlisle	1-0	Barrow goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Carlisle	Grimsby	1-0	Carlisle goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Grimsby	Leeds	1-0	Grimsby goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Leeds	Sheff Wed	1-0	Leeds goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Sheff Wed	Wimbledon	1-0	Sheff Wed goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Wimbledon	Leicester	1-0	Wimbledon goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Leicester	Derby	1-0	Leicester goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Derby	Tottenham	1-0	Derby goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Tottenham	Liverpool	1-0	Tottenham goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Liverpool	Sheff Wed	1-0	Liverpool goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Sheff Wed	Everton	1-0	Sheff Wed goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Everton	Newcastle	1-0	Everton goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Newcastle	Charlton	1-0	Newcastle goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Charlton	Coventry	1-0	Charlton goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Coventry	Blackburn	1-0	Coventry goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Blackburn	Nottm Forest	1-0	Blackburn goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).
Nottm Forest	Southampton	1-0	Nottm Forest goal by Stuart Pearce (70th min).

Nationwide League

Rae of sunshine back to add to Sunderland's well-being

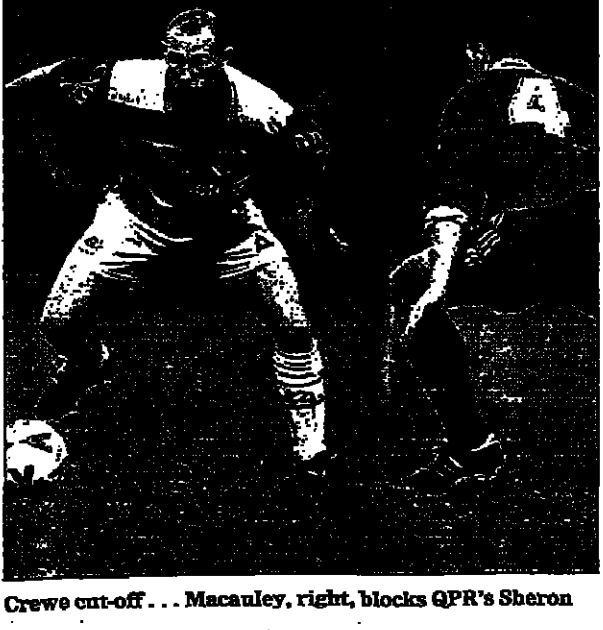
ALEX RAE made an emotional return to the Sunderland team and helped the First Division leaders stretch their advantage to seven points with a 2-0 home win against Port Vale.

Rae lasted 53 minutes in his first appearance since being admitted to a Hampshire hospital in March, where he had a heart attack. He was struck by a friendship with his fellow player Paul Gascoigne.

Peter Reid, Sunderland's manager, was delighted with the 29-year-old Scot. "His response was top class," he said. "I thought his passing was exceptional and he knocked a lot of balls around that got us going."

Goals from Martin Smith and Paul Butler earned Sunderland their win while their closest rivals Ipswich were losing by the same score at home to Barnsley.

To increase the Suffolk



Crews cut-off... Macanley, right, blocks QPR's Sherron

Second Division

THE legendary patience of Manchester City fans finally snapped during Saturday's goalless draw at home to Bristol Rovers — but not with their under-achieving players.

Around 40 of the 25,000 crowd at Maine Road surrounded the stadium's press room seeking out a tabloid journalist. They believed him responsible for mocking comparing City's midweek home defeat in the Auto Windscreen Shield against Mansfield to their neighbour's Champions League game with Bayern Munich 24 hours later.

Stewards and police were called to restore order and four fans were ejected from the ground. Backs safely returned to their seats for the second half and were unable to report on a miserable draw which leaves City — pre-season favourites for the championship — languishing in ninth

Third Division

LEYTON ORIENT failed in their attempt to equal a 37-year-old club record of 11 unbeaten league games. But there was history made when John Taylor scored his 82nd goal for the club in a 4-0 victory over Burnley.

Orient were beaten 2-1 at home by Peterborough, for whom Drew Broughton scored the decisive goal after 80 minutes, when he followed up a Steve Castle shot parried by the goalkeeper Chris Mackenzie.

Cardiff City capitalised on a Saturday of surprises by beating Scunthorpe 2-0 to return to the top of the table after a 24-hour absence.

City, now three points clear, responded to temporary leaders Mansfield's 1-0 win against Shrewsbury on Friday with a goal in each half from John Williams. Their joy was increased when they heard that rivals Halifax had been beaten by the only goal at lowly Scarborough. Other

promotion chasers to bite the dust included Rotherham, hammered 1-1 at Brighton, and Warrington who lost 1-0 at Chester.

Brentford moved up to third after a 1-0 win at Exeter, where Lloyd Owusu's 12th goal of the season on his 22nd birthday proved decisive five minutes before half-time.

Cambridge United climbed to fourth on the same number of points after beating Plymouth 1-0. Taylor was the first of the town when his 11th-minute strike made him the club's record scorer, overtaking Alan Biley.

Carlisle escaped away from immediate danger at the bottom with a 2-1 win at home to Hartlepool, where Sean and Junior Mendes netted within four minutes of each other midway through the first half. Denny Ingram reprieved on an injury-time penalty.

Ken Charlery was Barnet's two-goal hero at Southend, where the London side scored a surprising 3-2 success.

Premiership

Tottenham Hotspur 2 Manchester United 2

Cracks show in United's armour

David Lacey

IT IS easy to see how Manchester United could win their fifth Premiership title in seven seasons. Equally it is not difficult to imagine how the championship could again pass them by.

At the moment United's veneer of invincibility is precisely that. Behind the sort of attacking extravaganza which at White Hart Lane on Saturday threatened to reduce the strutting Tottenham cockerel to a feebly clucking capon lies a vulnerability which, at the very least, ought to keep the championship contest alive until next May.

Clearly the dismissal of Gary Neville six minutes before the interval, following a second booking, was part of the reason why, having established a 2-0 lead by the 17th minute, United were held to a 2-2 draw in injury-time. Yet, as pleas of mitigation go, this told only half the story.

George Graham, who in his two months as Spurs manager has brought to White Hart Lane a revivified fervour worthy of Elmer Gantry, quite rightly pointed out that having a man sent off does not necessarily make life easier for the opposing team. All that happens is that the de-

Match stats

	Tot	ManU
Possession	54%	46%
Attempts on target	7	6
Attempts off target	6	4
Corners	6	3
Fouls	10	16
Offsides	4	1
Bookings	2	7
Sendings-off	0	1

pleted side reinforce their defence and make greater use of fresh legs among their substitutes.

No, Manchester United did not lose two points and the chance to go top on anything other than goal difference simply because they were reduced to 10 men. Their inability to deal with accurate free-kicks by Darren Anderton cost them victory more than anything else.

When a defender is allowed to score with a free header from a set-piece, that might be treated as a momentary lapse. When he does so a second time the fault surely runs a little deeper.

Sol Campbell's two goals, in the 70th minute and the first of the two minutes allowed for stoppages, followed the hard, flat crosses Anderton launched at the heart of the United defence from left and right.

Well taken though both goals were, there was a time when the combination of Peter Schmeichel's giant shadow and Gary Pallister's power in the air would have minimised the likelihood of Manchester United being punished twice in such a manner in the same game. Now things are a little different and, had Allen Nielsen not headed the game's simplest chance straight to Schmeichel two minutes after Campbell's first goal, Spurs might even have won.

While Schmeichel could not be blamed for either goal he is staying on his line more often at free-kicks and corners and is becoming increasingly nervous when he leaves it to gather high balls. Nor would it be fair to hold the excellent Jaap Stam wholly responsible, but it is an inescapable fact that, when Campbell was saving a point for his team in the air, United had three centre-backs on the pitch, Hen-



Soothing Rennie... the referee intervenes as Roy Keane, one of the five United players not booked, squares up to Andy Sinton. PHOTOGRAPH: TOM HEVEZ

ning Berg having joined Stam and Ronny Johnsen after half-time.

For Manchester United the disappointment of not winning was all the more profound because of the way they started. By now it should have dawned on most people that Alex Ferguson does not field reserves, he simply opts for alternatives made available by the depth and variety of his squad. Thus playing Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer instead of Dwight Yorke, who was unfit, and Andy Cole was never going to make life easier for Tottenham's defenders.

Initially Nicky Butt, preferred in midfield to Paul Scholes, posed the biggest problem of all. With Roy Keane again in superlative form and Sheringham dropping deep, Butt was the crucial link in a series of attacks which bypassed the Spurs midfield and outflanked their defence.

After 10 minutes, following a Tottenham free-kick and a nervous clearance by Schmei-

chel, Sheringham, Butt, Ryan Giggs and David Beckham launched a counter-attack which left White Hart Lane winded.

From Beckham's centre Giggs saw a header blocked by Ian Walker with Solskjaer reaching the rebound. Seven minutes later Sheringham's quick pass out to Beckham, followed by another cross, found Solskjaer ahead of Campbell and increasing United's lead with a crisp first-time shot.

Four previous visits to London this season, including the FA Charity Shield, had brought Manchester United little joy, let alone a win, but now it was hard to see how they could lose. Then Gary Neville was cautioned for a two-footed lunge at Nielsen and 10 minutes later saw both yellow and red for hauling down David Ginola, and thereafter the plot changed.

Altogether Uriah Rennie, the Sheffield referee, showed United seven yellow cards, as well as the red, and Spurs

two. Yet Rennie's handling of the match was sympathetic to the game's flow and, when Beckham and Andy Sinton began their own private war, he recognised that this was the equivalent of Richmal Crompton's Violet Elizabeth taking on A A Milne's Mary Jane.

The odd flounce apart, the match was notable for the strength and straightforwardness of much of the tackling. Giggs defended as assiduously as anyone and evidence of his renewed sharpness will help United shake off Saturday's disappointment as they prepare to meet Chelsea at home on Wednesday.

At the end of the game Ferguson's acknowledgement of Graham was perfunctory and for the second time this season he left a London ground without a word to reporters. Maybe he can console himself with the thought that Chelsea's defence is equally uncertain on crosses but they have lost only once at Old Trafford in nine league visits.

On the defensive

How the Spurs and United stoppers compared at White Hart Lane

	Spurs	Man Utd
Minutes on pitch	90	90
Goals	2	0
Goal attempts		
On target	2	1
Off target	2	1
Passing		
Passes attempted	22	12
Success rate	68%	66%
Defending		
Tackles attempted	4	3
Success rate	75%	67%
Clearances made	16	23
Discipline		
Fouls committed	0	0
Cards (yellow-red)	0-0	0-0



Sol Campbell Jaap Stam

Middlesbrough 1 West Ham United 0

Gazza has Riverside bubbling

Jon Brodick

IT WAS the sort of moment Paul Gascoigne must dread. At the final whistle, sweat dripping from his brow, he was ushered towards a television camera by the side of the pitch to be told he was Man of the Match.

All of which might sound excellent news, particularly with Glenn Hoddle's No. 2 John Gorman peering down from the stands. But such awards are synonymous with champagne and Gascoigne was surely relieved to escape with nothing more than an isotonic drink in his hand.

His was not quite a cham-

Match stats

	Boro	Ham
Possession	53%	47%
Attempts on target	6	4
Attempts off target	7	2
Corners	5	5
Fouls	8	17
Offsides	3	0
Bookings	1	3

pagne performance. After a sparkling first-half he dried out a little, though he still looked capable of knocking over a hotel chair from 30 yards — never mind two yards — with his feet.

"I thought Gazza was the best player on the pitch," said Middlesbrough's manager Bryan Robson. "I'm pleased he's enjoying life again away from football. He's settled in his new house and he's got everything in perspective."

"It doesn't matter how good a player you are, if you are not training all the time it takes a bit of an edge off your game. When Gazza was having his treatment he missed three days a week. Now he's in full-time training we're getting the best out of him."

Of course everything with Gascoigne is invariably black or white. A world-beater one moment, he is a wife-beater the next, by turns the saviour of English football and unfit for the Marchwood Priory 4th XI. If he has his life in perspective, few others do.

On Saturday's evidence he remains a rare talent. The 31-year-old has clearly suffered from the endless knees-ups — the knees up in hospital plaster, that is, as well as with Jimmy Five Bellies — but the vision and occasional burst survive. His refusal to waste energy suggests a career in the Green Party beckons.

Yet Middlesbrough's rise is based on more than Gascoigne. Andy Townsend and Gary Pallister were outstanding and Dean Gordon looked to be worth more than £900,000 of the £52 million Robson has spent in 4½ years.

Robson, haunted by events of two seasons ago, talks only of avoiding relegation. But the players are realistic. Only Aston Villa and Chelsea have defeated Boro this season and they are unbeaten at home in the league for 14 months.

"There's obviously an elite... but I think we can compete just because of it," Townsend said. "Europe would be marvellous and with the start we've made it's a realistic chance. But we go to Old Trafford next week and Europe can seem a million miles away then."

It must seem a million miles away for West Ham now. Since reaching second place they have suffered two straight defeats. "Everyone was talking about the Champions League," said Harry Redknapp. "They've woken up now."

His defence apparently has not. They allowed Steveickers to hit a post before Brian Deane headed in Townsend's corner in the 40th minute. His marker Rio Ferdinand may have been dreaming of Manchester United or Liverpool, though Redknapp yesterday was having his treatment he missed three days a week. Now he's in full-time training we're getting the best out of him."

John Harrison hit the bar after the break as Boro lived dangerously but they defended well to see out the game. "The chairman and the board don't want to sell, I'm sure of that," he said. "And I certainly don't want to sell my best players."

John Harrison hit the bar after the break as Boro lived dangerously but they defended well to see out the game.

Blackburn Rovers 0 Newcastle United 0

Newcastle limp towards D Day

Media conglomerate linked to St James' takeover, reports Michael Walker

TODAY, according to one St James' Park insider, is "D Day" for Newcastle United. The D is for the decisions to be made by the two men who control the majority share of the club, Douglas Hall and Freddy Shepherd, on this the first day the two are legally allowed to dispose of their 63 per cent of Newcastle.

Speculation has been flying about that a media conglomerate is putting it at odds with Hall's and Shepherd's decision but the speculation ignores one vital question: why would anyone want to spend upwards of £200 million on Newcastle United?

Maybe some analysts think that now would be the time to strike as Newcastle cannot get much worse and that consequently their value is sure to rise. Yet that perspective took a bit of a knock on Saturday when, after two games in which Rudi Garcia's team looked to be progressing, they took a major and off-balance step backwards.

The fact that Alan Shearer had been missing from those matches only increased optimism; imagine how effective Newcastle would be when he returned to partner Duncan Ferguson. But Shearer has a strained hamstring and it may be serious enough for him to miss United's next two games, at home to Leicester City and Leeds United.

Without Shearer it is distinctly possible to see Newcastle losing both, thereby reaching the halfway stage in the season with even fewer points than at this time last year. Ibrahim Ba may be a black man with white hair but not even his supposed £1 million arrival from Milan disguises the fact that Shearer is Newcastle's key player.

His replacement here, Andreas Andersson, was described by Chris Kamara as

Radio 5 Live as "brain dead". Kamara could have added "and heartless" for the Swede not only continually misread Ferguson's skillful knock-downs but had no appetite to chase them. Unsurprisingly, therefore, Newcastle's one promising opening came from a Blackburn mistake, Dietmar Hamann robbing Christian Fittis into a low, diving save.

Fittis looked happier after that ninth-minute activity, though his involvement thereafter was minimal. Fittis's comfort, however, was not apparent in several of his team-mates. Much of Rovers' forward passing was tentative while Brian Kidd, tracksuited on the touchline, was constantly cajoling his defenders.

It was, Kidd explained, the defensive aspect on which he had worked most in his first week and a second consecutive clean sheet, something Blackburn had not managed this season, was the reward. Kidd was grateful for that but not unrealistic about his players. "I've come in and they'll be wondering what I'm like," he said. "It's an awkward time for them: it's bound to be. The lads must be anxious in the predicament we're in."

They remain in the bottom three, eight points behind Newcastle, but had it not been for the woodwork and Steve Harper, standing in for the injured Shay Given, that gap would have been down to five. Not only did Tim Sherwood have the two best chances of a disjointed first half but he made a brilliant reflex stop from Kevin Davies who then hit the crossbar from 18 yards, and claimed to have got a finger-tip on Jeff Kenna's 72nd-minute penalty that rebounded off a post.

Kidd was not displeased with Kenna, even though the same player missed a penalty at Newcastle in the Worthington Cup last month, because Kenna had shown confidence and decisiveness in taking another. And, as Kidd said of advice received from Alex Ferguson: "Alex told me to be decisive and to do what you believe in." Decisions, decisions.

Sheffield Wednesday 3 Charlton Athletic 0

Carbone defines the divide

Trevor Haylett

IT DID not augur well for Charlton when they emerged for the kick-about with nothing to kick about. If Wednesday would not give them a ball for the pre-match preliminaries, then how would they fare when the real contest got under way?

As things turned out, Alan Curbishley's side enjoyed a great deal of possession, stitched together a high number of passing moves and still ended as resounding losers. They do not possess enough individuals who can make a difference and after four successive defeats they now have to face Aston Villa and Arsenal before the new year.

Afterwards the Charlton manager kept his men behind a closed dressing-room door for another 90-minute ordeal

but he could lock them away for a week and he would still be as far away from the nimble skills of a Benito Carbone.

The little Italian scored two goals in the win against Nottingham Forest last Monday which bore testimony to his quality, but the control, the dummy to throw off his marker and then the combination of vision and power to send a searing shot high into the net took his week's work to a higher level.

"When Benny's in that mood there's nobody better," said Danny Wilson, and the Wednesday manager cannot wait for Christmas to come and go so he can harness a partnership between a refreshed — and reformed? — Paolo Di Canio and his compatriot.

Ironically a potential selection headache has been made

easier by Carbone's suspension. His booking for dissent begins on Boxing Day, just as Di Canio is finishing his 11-match exile for pushing over the referee Paul Alcock.

Curbishley was more angry at half-time than at the end, which begs the question of how long he would have detained his guilty men had the second half not intervened. "You just have to hold your hands up for their second and third goals but the first was definitely avoidable from our point of view," he said, referring to the ease with which Andy Booth shrugged off Mark Kinsella to drive home following a corner.

Despite their industry, Charlton showed little sharpness where it mattered and Pether Rudi's delightful volley from Carbone's right-wing cross only underlined the difference between the sides.

Leicester City 3 Nottingham Forest 1

Forest's Flying Dutchman arrives late again

David Hopps

THE one thing you can trust is that Pierre van Hooijdonk is that he will not be on time. If his arrival three months late pointed to a season of Premiership misery for Nottingham Forest, by being half-a-second late on Saturday he virtually confirmed it.

Van Hooijdonk's rash knee-high challenge on Leicester City's captain Steve Walsh, which caused his dismissal just before the hour, brings a three-match suspension which could easily leave a Forest side that has not won since August in bottom place by new year.

Great distress caused by persistent unpunctuality: at this rate, when Van Hooijdonk finally leaves Forest it will be to become the chief adviser to Virgin Trains. The Dutchman pleaded that it was an accident and he had gone off the rails only once before. It was

all mightily unconvincing. Van Hooijdonk's challenge occurred during the most disorderly stage of the game. Forest, superior throughout the first half, were agitated by conceding a penalty that put them 2-1 behind in Leicester's favour. The excellent Steve Guppy, whose cross had set up Emile Heskey's equaliser shortly before half-time — curled in a third 15 minutes from time.

Both managers were predisposed, from their poor vantage points, to suggest the penalty might have been harsh, but the referee Mike Riley will not have lost any sleep over the video play-backs. Guppy delivered the corner, Walsh headed back across the box, whereupon Andy Johnson sought to clear with arms flailing.

When it comes to scoring goals, no one can deny Van Hooijdonk's class. His finish to give Forest a 13th-minute

lead — Harewood having robbed Walsh in midfield — was so slick that it misled one observer into suggesting that his granny could have scored it. Some granny.

But a Van Hooijdonk goal is not half as engrossing as a Van Hooijdonk goal celebration, which reintroduces the dilemma of whether anybody should shake hands with him.

Harewood, excited by the success, began to sprint towards Van Hooijdonk, then wheeled away in confusion. Only when Steve Stone, the Forest shop-steward, sombrely shook his hand did a few members of the rank and file add their own congratulations.

It is all very silly, if Forest insist upon keeping a player in such unhealthy circumstances, then do not expect him to be mentally equipped for the task. Bassett, whose team ethic has been the cornerstone of his managerial career, should need no reminding.

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Clogger

A sideways glance at soccer



The Handy Headline Foreigner XI

Their names alone inspire news stories

Their left don't fit
No. 58 Brian Kidd

The new hopeful in the Blackthorn hot seat may be a big enough name to fill the gap left by the departed Roy Hodgson, but he is certainly nowhere near filling the void left by the departed Roy Hodgson.

A life in pictures



Michael Owen (19 today)

Ask the experts

Can any Everton fan...
...the club's...
...the club's...
...the club's...

A-Z of British football

Rubber legs, roundly described as central and South American...
...the club's...
...the club's...
...the club's...

Cup of winners

Last week's...
...the club's...
...the club's...
...the club's...

Premiership



Ram raider... Paulo Wanchope of Derby challenges Bernard Lambourde for possession at Pride Park

Derby County 2 Chelsea 2

Smith trumps Vialli's gamble

Smith has long been exhausted. But this dreary record and its dangers were still being whistled at Pride Park.

Vialli left out six players who started in Wednesday's...
...the club's...
...the club's...

Match stats

	Derby	Chelsea
Possession	49%	51%
Attempts on target	3	5
Attempts off target	3	2
Goals	4	7
Fouls	16	20
Offsides	3	6
Bookings	4	1

Bakayoko in royal blue of the departed Fergie

Ian Ross on the Ivory Coast youngster who is now a pretender to Duncan's throne

It will be some considerable time before those who wear blue on the streets of Liverpool are able to fully reconcile themselves to the fact that, by necessity, their allegiance must always be to the club and not an individual.

Scottish round-up

Dons lengthen their shortlist

Patrick Glenn

ABERDEEN'S directors will meet today to plan a strategy in their search for a new manager, but supporters would be well advised to hold their breath until an appointment has been made.

Bellamy hints at legal action after injury

NORWICH City's striker Craig Bellamy is contemplating legal action against the Wolves defender Kevin Muscat after a tackle which left him needing nine stitches in a knee wound, writes Peter White.



Country girl

Paula Radcliffe takes her first senior title 'at long last'

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The Guardian Sport

Monday December 14 1998 www.guardian.co.uk

Premiership

Aston Villa 3 Arsenal 2

Villa lay claim to title deeds

David Lacey sees Arsenal fall under Dublin's double onslaught

MAYBE Aston Villa are something more than pre-Christmas pretenders. Certainly they are championship material if powers of recovery are anything to go by. Yesterday a stunning second-half revival restored John Gregory's team to the top of the Premiership after a Saturday night's absence. Arsenal's period of travail appeared over when Dennis Bergkamp gave them a 2-0 lead on the stroke of half-time with his second goal of the game, but after Julian Joachim had restored Villa's interest in the contest Dion Dublin scored twice to bring them a memorable victory in a thoroughly entertaining match.

So the pressure is back on Manchester United, who now have to beat Chelsea at Old

team's organisation at the back crumbled away after Bergkamp and Nicolas Anelka had dominated much of the first half. Arsenal performed some extraordinary tactical confections in their efforts to regain the initiative, one of which involved Steve Bould spending a period on the left wing.

Having also gone four Premiership matches without a win, Arsenal were as keen as Villa to go for three points yesterday and the commitment of both sides to attack ensured a rewarding spectacle from the outset. Yet Villa struggled to get into the game.

The opening goal, after 14 minutes, stemmed from Fredrik Ljungberg, a strong influence in the first half, beating Alan Wright in the air. As the ball bobbed on, Anelka's head flicked it past Gareth Southgate with Bergkamp surging through to gain possession. The bounce was awkward, the ball just would not come down, but Bergkamp's technique enabled him to beat Michael Oakes with a horizontal volley.

Villa's immediate response was ragged, with little of consequence reaching Dublin and Joachim's tendency to snatch at everything wasting what decent service there was. In the closing seconds of the half Bergkamp and Anelka sliced through Villa's cover with a double exchange of passes which ended with the Frenchman dragging the ball back from the byline for the Dutchman to turn it past Oakes once more.

Villa appeared to be in a dilemma. If they brought on Collymore, cover would have to be sacrificed somewhere, inviting Arsenal to score a third goal. But Gregory said: "I believe after the week we have had against Manchester United, Chelsea and Arsenal that there are four teams who have the potential to be champions — including us."

Yesterday's victory over the champions and Double winners, and especially the manner in which it was achieved, will have done much to restore confidence among the Villa supporters after only two points had been taken from four games. Villa simply refused to admit that a revived Arsenal side were their superiors; it was a triumph of stubbornness as much as anything.

At the same time Gregory's tactical switches in the second half contributed in no small part to the way his team turned the match around. His introduction of Stan Collymore, who had begun the afternoon on the bench, to augment Dublin and Joachim up front steadily eroded the efficiency of an Arsenal defence which, while lacking the injured Tony Adams, had hitherto resisted Villa's untidy attacks with little difficulty.

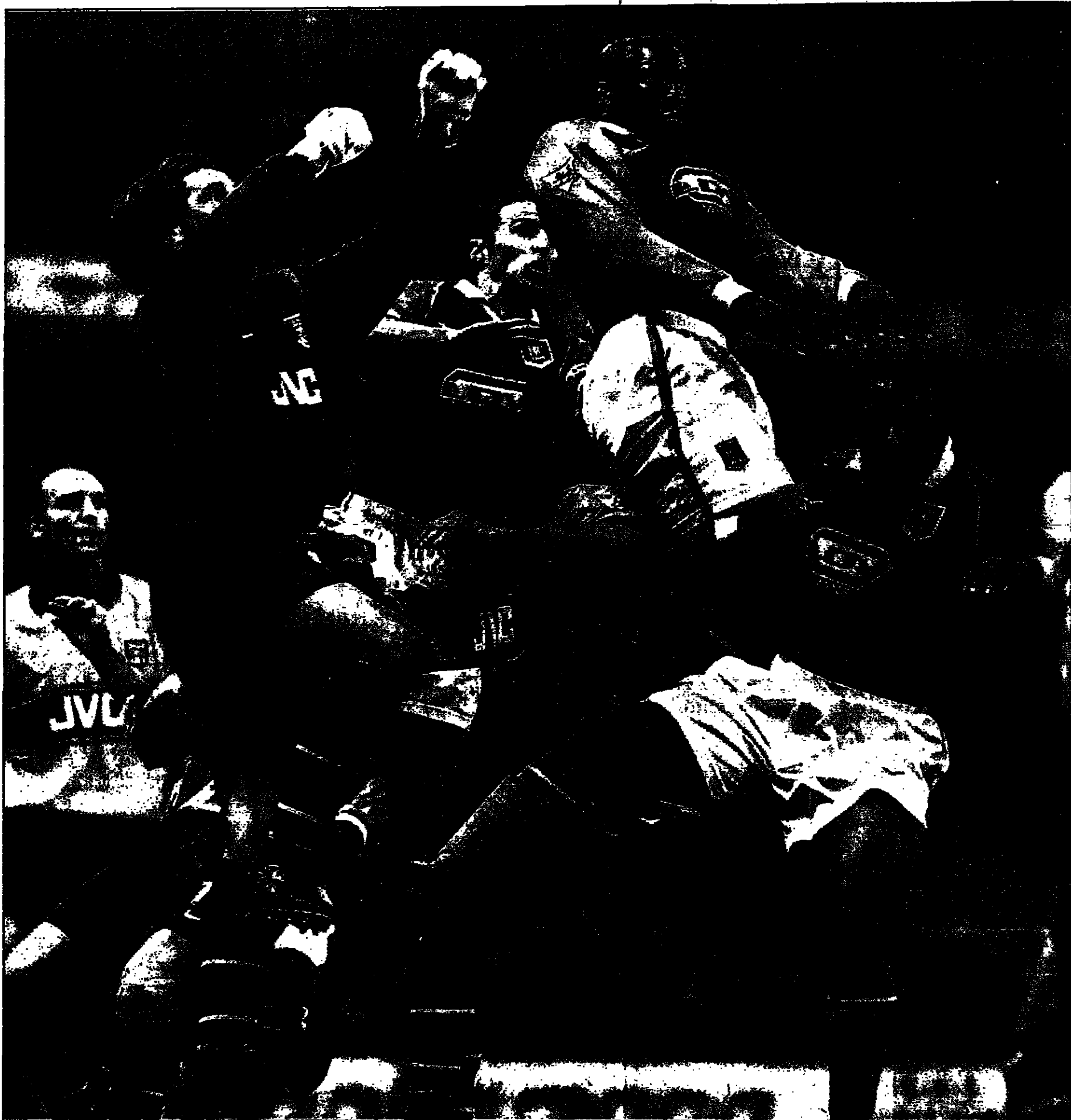
For Arsène Wenger the most disappointing aspect of this defeat will be the way his

team's organisation at the back crumbled away after Bergkamp and Nicolas Anelka had dominated much of the first half. Arsenal performed some extraordinary tactical confections in their efforts to regain the initiative, one of which involved Steve Bould spending a period on the left wing.

Skydiver fall adds to Arsenal jinx

The second half of the match at Villa Park was delayed by 15 minutes when a skydiver crashed into the roof of the Trinity Road stand before plunging 40 yards on to the perimeter track. Jim Walker, Villa's physio, was among those who raced to his aid.

It was the third serious accident at a match involving Arsenal this season. At Coventry a steward was crushed to death by their team bus; during last week's Champions League game in Athens, a Panathinaikos fan suffered a fatal fall from the top of a stand.



Rising expectations... Arsenal's goalkeeper David Seaman leaps to deny the home side's high-jumper Ugo Ehiogu at Villa Park yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL STEELE



Topping... Collymore and Dublin celebrate

Wimbledon 1 Liverpool 0

No relief for the Red pain

Robbie Earle pipes up for the Dons and condemns Houllier's side to Liverpool's worst run in 44 years. Martin Thorpe reports

AFTER being introduced by Celtic Vigo, Liverpool failed to come up with a hangover cure at Wimbledon yesterday, going down to their third defeat in eight days and their eighth in the last 11 games.

Gérard Houllier has probably never known a worse headache. His side dominated most of the game and it could be said they were unlucky to lose. But another defeat is no coincidence. This once-great club now find themselves slumping at only nine points off the relegation zone.

It is Liverpool's worst run overall since 1954, when Don Welsh was manager. How richer the picture looks for Wimbledon, the perennial puppets. Joe Kinnear's side have now won seven of their last 10 games, including victories over Chelsea and Arsenal as well as Liverpool.

On a pitch covered with so many divots it looked as if it had been attacked by a bad golfer, Wimbledon's defence found a perfect setting as they soaked up the pressure, rode their luck, carved out chances and sewed up the points with a

typically scrappy goal. Of course, they will not mind. They now sit eighth in the table.

Liverpool's problem was that they could not find the net. Neil Sullivan in Wimbledon's goal denied the victors on at least four occasions while the squanderer of two of those chances, Michael Owen, also missed a penalty. It was not a great way to spend the afternoon before your 19th birthday, especially on the ground where you scored your first senior goal two seasons ago.

Liverpool had been hoping that the return of Jamie Redknapp, Paul Ince and Vegard Heggem to the inexperienced side which failed to overcome the Spanish club on Tuesday would prove a decisive factor and secure their fifth win in 12 visits to Wimbledon.

But the faint-limbs in this Liverpool side ran much deeper, beginning at the back where the team have now kept only one clean sheet in the last 13 games. It was not that Liverpool were overwhelmed. Their own domination began early on as they carved out promising channels down

the right wing through the sorties of the 24 million wing-back Heggem and the astute vision of Patrik Berger in midfield.

The Czech, after 12 minutes, pounced on a poor clearance from Ben Thatcher to deliver a run and shot from 20 yards on and allowed the Wimbledon midfielder to score easily from close range.

Liverpool, though, continued to press. Sullivan resumed normal service with a great save to keep out Berger's 19-yard free-kick and, with less than 15 minutes left, Ince at last did something worthwhile by winning a penalty for being brought down by Andy Roberts.

With Robbie Fowler already substituted, Owen took the kick and struck it feebly enough for Sullivan, diving to his left, to drop on the ball. Blackwell then denied Karlheinz Riedle with a fine tackle by the Wimbledon penalty spot. In between all this James saved Liverpool's further chances with a smart save from Efan Ekoku. But this was not Liverpool's day, just as it has not been their week or their season.

Television and radio

The weather in Europe

The weather in Europe

The weather in Europe

Dark side of the force

And it may mean a London problem: David Wilton, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, acknowledges that institutional racism exists within the police and John Newing, the new president of the Association of Chief Police Officers and Chief Constable of Derbyshire, cites race as the major issue.

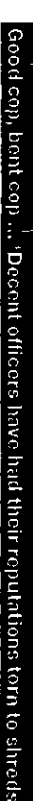
Radio four's *Banisters* may recently have borne a former policewoman, Doc McAnulty, recounting how she was driven from the service after she was accused by colleagues of obtaining confessions from suspects because she "got her tongue" for them.

On top of all this came the scandal of los-trainline practices

But it does not mean that the other facts about our beleaguered law enforcers have attracted rather less attention. Overall crime rates are down for the first time in 80 years. Violent crime is down 17 per cent. Burglary has fallen by 15 per cent. The percentages of black and female officers being recruited has never been higher. The numbers of graduate officers has never been higher. Countries throughout the world seek the expertise of British officers to assist in everything from murder investigations to kidnapping. The police stand far higher in

vision, the uncomfortable message is repeated: last week it emerged that a new BBC documentary on Merseyside police had inadvertently captured one of their disgraced former officers, Ilmor Davies, while last week's final edition of BBC2's fictional drama *The Cops* showed the grim tensions and resentments between ranks over styles of policing.

But do the headlines tell the full story? A few other facts about our beleaguered law enforcement forces have likewise



Research Officers

Senior Research Officer

This permanent post requires a good team worker, highly motivated with at least three years' experience in research

Research Officer

One year's postgraduate research experience or a qualification in industrial relations, socio-econ. studies or law would be a significant advantage. This will be an initial two-year appointment.

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ACAS is an independent statutory non-Departmental public body with offices throughout Great Britain. Both posts are based at the London Head Office but some travelling will be required.

ACAS supports and promotes equal opportunities.

Quick Crossword No. 8930

- Across**

 - 1 Not spontaneous (6a) (6b) (2)
 - 2 Proportion (6)
 - 3 Movable piece of solution (7)
 - 4 Single complex item (4)
 - 5 Pressure in lbs (9)
 - 6 (Papal) ambassador (6)
 - 7 Central African country (9)
 - 8 Whig historian and essayist (6)
 - 9 Building to store grain etc (4)
 - 10 Palette (7)
 - 11 Professorship (6)
 - 12 Ancient or medieval ruler (6,7)

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Executive Director of Arts and Policy

Salary: £56,000 - £70,000 negotiable (five year fixed term),

The postholder will:

- play a key role in setting priorities for the arts over the next 5 years;
- play a major part in deploying £800m pa (Grant-in-Aid and Lottery) for revenue and capital purposes;
- have access to significant flexible funding with which to make a difference in the arts nationally.

The postholder will be responsible for the art forms, audience development, touring and distribution, education, and emergent and multidisciplinary arts. He or she will need to bring vision, creativity, considerable managerial experience, a strategic perspective and a keen sense of where the arts are and (even more importantly) where the arts are going, to this challenging and exciting task.

The portholder will be the fourth member of a team which includes the Chief Executive, Executive Director of Planning and Resources, and Executive Director of Communications.

Application packs are available from Louise Nunn, Human Resources Adviser, Arts Council of England, 14 Great Peter Street, London SW1E 3NQ. Tel: 0171 973 5193 (24 hour answerphone), Minkom systems: 0171 973 5154. E-mail: victoria.blair@artscouncil.org.uk

Closing date for completed applications: 1st February. Please note the Arts Council's offices will be closed between 28 December 1998 and 3 January 1999.

The Arts Council is committed to an equal opportunities recruitment policy.

THE ARTS COUNCIL OF ENGLAND



Steve Bell



Doonesbury



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I order any three of the underlined books (vol. 1-3), telephone 0800 600 102 or send a cheque to

The Sabine Durrant Interview

John Motson Lamb in sheep's clothing

He's in love with football, the BBC, and his famous warm coat
Photograph by Eamonn McCabe

It felt like I'd stepped into a time machine as we stood in the doorway of a small, white, two-story house in the north of London. The house was built in the 1930s, and it was a typical example of the kind of house that you would find in the suburbs of London at that time. The house was built in the 1930s, and it was a typical example of the kind of house that you would find in the suburbs of London at that time. The house was built in the 1930s, and it was a typical example of the kind of house that you would find in the suburbs of London at that time.

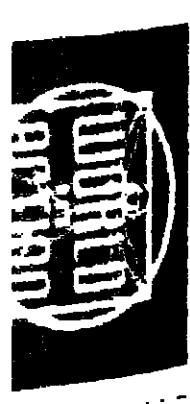
who died at 11, following a severe attack of pneumonia. The house was built in the 1930s, and it was a typical example of the kind of house that you would find in the suburbs of London at that time. The house was built in the 1930s, and it was a typical example of the kind of house that you would find in the suburbs of London at that time. The house was built in the 1930s, and it was a typical example of the kind of house that you would find in the suburbs of London at that time.

He used to buy his coats from a garage in Basildon, but the man who flogged them has disappeared. The house was built in the 1930s, and it was a typical example of the kind of house that you would find in the suburbs of London at that time. The house was built in the 1930s, and it was a typical example of the kind of house that you would find in the suburbs of London at that time. The house was built in the 1930s, and it was a typical example of the kind of house that you would find in the suburbs of London at that time.

Understandably some producers have to be big bang, expensive, but the idea of a big bang is to get the early stages of a project done. The house was built in the 1930s, and it was a typical example of the kind of house that you would find in the suburbs of London at that time. The house was built in the 1930s, and it was a typical example of the kind of house that you would find in the suburbs of London at that time. The house was built in the 1930s, and it was a typical example of the kind of house that you would find in the suburbs of London at that time.

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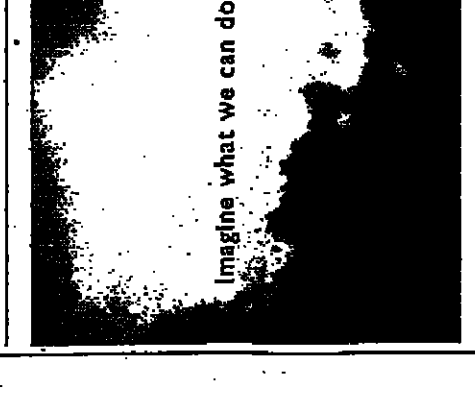


Brave new World

Critics have rounded on Granada for abandoning 'the World in Action' ethic. Not so, says **Charles Tremayne**, it's alive and well in a new guise

has been killed off Granada is currently in discussion with the BBC. World in Action team gathered to mark the end of their current run. It was more than just another Christmas party, however, because in a way it symbolised the end of an era. When the new World in Action begins in January, it will be back in its normal Monday-evening slot. All of us there on Friday night are proud of the programme's achievement, but many are also excited by the prospect of the new current affairs show that Granada will be launching in the New Year. It will run in a one-hour slot, be presented by Trevor McDonald, and aims to take Granada's appetite for challenging, popular and inquiring journalism into a new era. It's also premature to say World in Action

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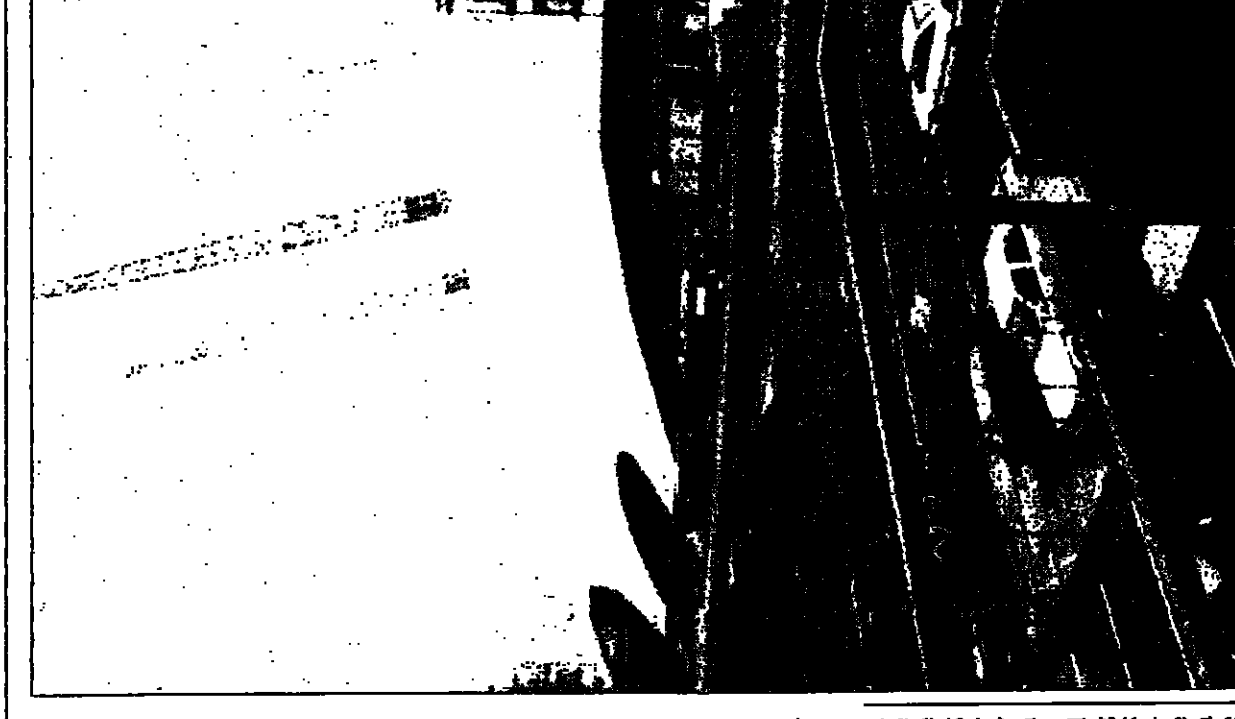
Imagine what we can do tomorrow. This week sees the launch of the Dome's advertising campaign, the toughest brief of the year. **Belinda Archer** gets an exclusive first look

Sale of the century

On Christmas Day, as we settle down in front of the TV, a provocative 60-second commercial will be beamed into homes glowing with that yuletide spirit. It will be for that most controversial of bodies, the New Millennium Experience Company — the Government-owned outfit run by Peter Mandelson, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and which is responsible for the Dome. This will be the first advertising project has suffered a merciless media battering since being announced in February 1996. But perhaps not surprisingly, this inaugural communication aims to sidestep the political hot potato of the Dome itself. That will come later. NMEC's advertising will initially aim to focus on the less sensitive issue of the new millennium and what the year 2000 supposedly represents. Sholto Douglas-Horne, NMEC's director of marketing and communications, explains the grand strategy: "What we have to do is find the nation's expectations about the millennium. We want them to appreciate the magnitude of 1,000 years and how we are privileged to be a part of history that only happens every 50 generations." The launch commercial will run for two weeks, until Sunday, January

The main target of the advertising campaign will be to get 12 million doors during the 366 days it is open

technology was forging ahead; and each development made the more competitive for current affairs. The video recorder, satellite and now digital television means viewers have numerous choices. Whether we like it or not, year by year our audiences declined. So what, you may ask? Four-and-a-half million viewers are still three million more than Dispatches, even though the format had delivered spectacularly well in the United States, there was concern that it wouldn't work in Britain. But the more we worried on Granada's bid for the new show the more enthusiastic we became. Here was an opportunity to once again attract a large audience to our style of journalism. We studied the American experience and worked out what might work here and what won't.



plan, stretching until July 1999. Then, all advertising and marketing will focus on promoting the national programme of millennium events being co-ordinated by the company, including worthy payroll giving schemes and schools competitions to compose a song for the millennium which will be performed in the Dome and made available on CD. Come next September, however, the company will finally launch the campaign to promote the Dome itself, as they hope, into a more syncretic atmosphere. The main focus will be to get the target 12 million people in through the doors during the 366 days it is open. "Obviously it will be a big, big push and we will be using the full marketing armoury. It will be about gal-

Geoff Dyer on Mafia and Method



Make my agent an offer he can't refuse

You never know where you are with Jorge Lila Borges. I thought I was reading the new translation of his Collected Fictions (Penguin) to get a better grip on the Argentinian master himself, but I ended up learning about Johnny Depp (a season of whose films begins on Channel 4 next week) and Al Pacino. The story of the Mafia, details a man's effort to re-write Don Quixote by dint of total identification — he aims to "be Miguel Cervantes" — with its minibus. At which point I stopped reading Borges, Jorge Lila, and started thinking about Braccio, Donnie, and Mike Newell's film this is the alias used by Joseph Piatone (Depp), an FBI agent attempting to infiltrate the Mafia. To do so he gains the trust of Pacino, a small-time wiseguy who serves as a guide to gangster etiquette. "We're not carrying money in a wallet, we carry it in a roll," a friend pointed out to me the absurdity of this intensive course of study, namely that all Piatone needed to do was watch some movies. This, after all, is what some prominent Mafia did for his daughter's wedding reception in the late 1970s. A Mafia boss used a Shillan villa where the guests danced to the theme from The Godfather; in 1991, building contractors in Palermo found a severed house's head in their company car. By the time of Donnie Braccio, a bloody diet of Scorsese and Coppola meant that we were bled with Mafia lore. As often happens, though, this argument against the film, actually points us in the direction of its unique importance. For Donnie Braccio is a film about time to precisely it's a film about time to act like you're in a Mafia film; more exactly still, it's a film about the Mafia and the Mafia. The essence of the version of the Method associated with Lee Strasberg and the Actors Studio is the idea of the actor's total immersion in his/her character. Pacino himself has claimed not really to "know what the Method is," but Strasberg was in no doubt: "some actors play characters. Pacino becomes them. He assumes their identity so completely that he continues to live a role long after a

6 Appointments

Communications Manager
International Business Travel Corporation
The International Business Travel Corporation is seeking a Communications Manager to join its London office. The successful candidate will be responsible for the development and implementation of the company's communications strategy, including the preparation of press releases, speeches, and other written materials. The candidate should have a minimum of five years' experience in a similar position and a degree in a related field. For consideration, please send your CV to: Mr. J. H. Smith, HR Manager, International Business Travel Corporation, 100 Broad Street, London EC2A 4DF.

Advertising Manager
OTC Media
OTC Media is seeking an Advertising Manager to join its London office. The successful candidate will be responsible for the development and implementation of the company's advertising strategy, including the preparation of advertising copy, the selection of advertising agencies, and the negotiation of advertising contracts. The candidate should have a minimum of five years' experience in a similar position and a degree in a related field. For consideration, please send your CV to: Mr. J. H. Smith, HR Manager, OTC Media, 100 Broad Street, London EC2A 4DF.

Production Assistant
Broadcast Assistant
Broadcast Assistant is seeking a Production Assistant to join its London office. The successful candidate will be responsible for the production of radio and television programmes, including the booking of studios, the hiring of technicians, and the coordination of the production team. The candidate should have a minimum of two years' experience in a similar position and a degree in a related field. For consideration, please send your CV to: Mr. J. H. Smith, HR Manager, Broadcast Assistant, 100 Broad Street, London EC2A 4DF.

Book Keeper
Experienced
We are seeking an experienced Book Keeper to join our London office. The successful candidate will be responsible for the recording and summarizing of financial transactions, the preparation of financial statements, and the maintenance of the company's financial records. The candidate should have a minimum of five years' experience in a similar position and a degree in a related field. For consideration, please send your CV to: Mr. J. H. Smith, HR Manager, 100 Broad Street, London EC2A 4DF.

Calling Office
Journalist
We are seeking a Calling Office Journalist to join our London office. The successful candidate will be responsible for the collection of news stories, the preparation of news reports, and the editing of news copy. The candidate should have a minimum of five years' experience in a similar position and a degree in a related field. For consideration, please send your CV to: Mr. J. H. Smith, HR Manager, 100 Broad Street, London EC2A 4DF.

NEW YEAR NEW START!
Are you ambitious and motivated with at least 6 months' experience in a similar position? We are seeking a New Year New Start! candidate to join our London office. The successful candidate will be responsible for the development and implementation of the company's new year strategy, including the preparation of new year resolutions, the selection of new year gifts, and the negotiation of new year contracts. The candidate should have a minimum of five years' experience in a similar position and a degree in a related field. For consideration, please send your CV to: Mr. J. H. Smith, HR Manager, 100 Broad Street, London EC2A 4DF.

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Merchandise Assistant
We are seeking a Merchandise Assistant to join our London office. The successful candidate will be responsible for the selection and purchase of merchandise for the company's retail outlets, the preparation of merchandise orders, and the maintenance of the company's merchandise inventory. The candidate should have a minimum of five years' experience in a similar position and a degree in a related field. For consideration, please send your CV to: Mr. J. H. Smith, HR Manager, 100 Broad Street, London EC2A 4DF.

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Media 111

YMTC Yorkshire Media Training Consortium
Project Manager
c £23,000
The Yorkshire Media Training Consortium (YMTC) is seeking a Project Manager to join its London office. The successful candidate will be responsible for the development and implementation of the consortium's training programmes, including the preparation of training materials, the selection of training venues, and the coordination of the training team. The candidate should have a minimum of five years' experience in a similar position and a degree in a related field. For consideration, please send your CV to: Mr. J. H. Smith, HR Manager, YMTC, 100 Broad Street, London EC2A 4DF.

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Letters from the editors

Letters from the editors
Extracts from the letters sent by David Yelland and Peter Stothard to staff, predicting a bleak future if the unions return.

Dear Colleagues,
If I tell you that this is a letter about trade unions and how you'll be tempted to toss it away without reading it, please don't let that be a grave mistake.

For many years the Sun has reported the demise of union power in the workplace. In our own industry we have employed more than 12 years without unions dictating to us how newspapers can be run. But all those who said union power was dead were wrong. It has merely been a hibernation. Now the sleeping giant is stirring.

We saw at the TUC conference the ugly face of union militancy. The language of confrontation. The politics of class war. I can almost hear you say: what has this got to do with me or the Sun? The answer is: plenty.

One of the most worrying aspects of the Fairness at Work proposals is the ease with which unions will be able to march in through the front doors of a workplace like Wapping. The union free era — which has seen the Sun flourish beyond recognition — will be over. That cannot be good for you and your family. It cannot be good for the Sun and the company that owns it.

And it cannot be good for our loyal family of readers. Thank you for all that you do to make the Sun the greatest paper in the world. Don't let's throw it all away.

Yours sincerely,
David Yelland
Editor, the Sun

THE TIMES
Dear Colleagues,
In the coming months trade unions are likely to increase their efforts to recruit editorial staff on the Times. Before you decide whether or not to join an union I would like to set out some of the problems that I see if our eight year history of individual contracts were to end.

Many of those contributing to the Times today have won only success and growth (but before 1986, some of the simplest procedures — to change despatches and paragraphs for the World Cup — were enormously complex issues which had to be negotiated case by case with the unions). None of us should want those days to return.

What I would fear most is not the immediate return of trade union recognition, but the immediate transfer of time and resources away from creativity for our reader and towards the stagnation of new development. In such circumstances the further and more successful the Times would be infinitely harder to achieve, perhaps impossible.

This is a vital issue for all of us at the Times. Let us treat it with the seriousness it deserves.

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Hand to mouth...

Hand to mouth...
David Dimbleby inspects the poverty paid staff are 'extremely happy' writer then down.

Trade Secretary, Peter Mandelson, to writer then down. Meanwhile, the company has been recruiting for those at the top of the profession have risen sharply, pay levels for the bulk of journalists have dropped back compared to the white-collar average — in some areas, they have fallen to absolute terms — while the concentration of media employment has spread and points of weakness and redundancy have become routine.

The concentration of de-recognition workforces in the media also adds to the political sensitivity of fairness at work for the Government and its media proprietors.

Rupert Murdoch has notably made clear his displeasure at Labour's union recognition rights proposals and News International has been heavily involved in the CBI's lobbying campaign to convince the

TUC conference, horrified at the ease with which unions would be able to march through the front doors of a workplace like Wapping. The Fairness at Work proposals became law. That cannot be good for you and your family. It cannot be good for the Sun and the company that owns it.

A sustained effort has gone into making News International employees feel unions would be exceptional, for example by providing free legal insurance which can be used to sue the firm itself. Now managers are trying to allow the firm's employees to join the National Union of Journalists, which already negotiates pay, to become a fully-fledged in-house company union, rather than have to talk to their old enemies in the media unions.

Outside London, preparations for fairness at work have taken a rougher turn. A recently leaked memo from Chris Oakley, chief executive of Regional Independent Media — which

owns the Yorkshire Post and Sheffield Star and boasts the shadow of a Home Secretary Norman Fowler as its chairman — instructed managers to push through at least 350 redundancies before next summer, when the government's new Fairness at Work proposals would be implemented. We could be the next to be recognised trade unions. Last week, the group announced 250 job losses. Another internal RIM document, written by its chairman, Resources Director, Ian Hanson, had decried the strike-breaking 'cynicism of private industry' and the 'unrealistic' plan to deal with the 'inevitable' position within our industry.

Meanwhile, the NUI representative or 'father of the NUI', Dave Downer, has just been singled out for redundancy after recruiting enough journalists at the paper to meet the 50 per cent legal recognition target.

As things stand, Fairness at Work should have a greater immediate impact on the media than anywhere else — even though recognition comes with limited obligations on employers — with all the potential that has for upsetting some of the Government's new friends. John Monks, TUC general secretary, has urged the media unions to work towards 'overlapping' their hand over-representation and John Royle, NUI general secretary, promises a 'careful strategy' with Wapping well down the list of priorities.

Jane Reed, News International's spokeswoman, appears resigned. 'The whole sector remembers what happened ten years ago and we would obviously prefer this legislation were not going ahead. But what happens happens — this is democracy after all.' All the signs are, however, that media employers are planning to resist re-unionisation every step of the way.

Letters from the editors

Letters from the editors
Extracts from the letters sent by David Yelland and Peter Stothard to staff, predicting a bleak future if the unions return.

Dear Colleagues,
If I tell you that this is a letter about trade unions and how you'll be tempted to toss it away without reading it, please don't let that be a grave mistake.

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The age of dissent

Michele Hanson



A pain in the neck

My mother's hairdresser is depressed about her mother's weight, her husband has left her and even her dog away to a policeman who won't let it back, and she's permanently exhausted, fed up, and filling out, completely dead. Perhaps it's a thyroid deficiency—a horrible thing to have, I know because I've had it. It makes you obese, paranoid, depressed and manic—but it creeps up on you slowly over the years, so you can't complain of anything in particular.

There I was, 23 years ago, hair falling out, eyes bulging, skin yellowing. I told the men, I didn't myself about like a slug, eating less and less, getting fatter, wearing with exaltation after a 10-minute trip to the shops and screaming with temper at the slightest annoyance. "This is what old age must be like," I thought. "Your looks go, flesh sags and bulges, energy drains away."

And I seemed to be growing a widow's hump. Or was it bad posture? Or perhaps I was just lazy, or greedy, or bored with my job. I asked my friends, "Don't I look awful? What's the matter

with me?"

"Nothing. You look fine." But they couldn't tell either; it had all been so gradual. At last a big lump grew in my neck — the thyroid in its death throes, forming a goitre — and off I went to hospital.

Luckily, for this disease there an almost miracle cure: thyroxine. At least it seemed like it to me.

Like my friend Sabrina, Silé came round, not like a blowl all evening, said little, moved less and

she looked like I had felt. Could it be the thyroid? Off she went to the doctor and, yes, she had it. The magic pills were dispensed and she turned from a dumpy capon into vibrant woman again.

A few decades ago, we would both have grown to a halt and died. So for us the world is a better place, but sadly not for the poor infinitesimaler. Her blood test was negative. But it's always worth a try.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF KABELTER

The war in Bosnia ended three years ago. But for soldiers like these, the front line has moved to the front room and now it's their wives who are in the firing line. **Anna McNamee** reports on the rise in domestic violence in Sarajevo

War in peace

on the hilltop, under a blanket of frostily fallen snow, even Sampson's shrimped-scurred concrete takes on the aura of a winter fairy-tale. But the serenity of the scene is an illusion. Inside, the evening news is starting its daily broadcast, triggering a new cycle of violence for many of those watching. "It will change my day," get angry and depressed."

Heath officers and counselling groups in the Bosnian capital report a steep increase in incidents of domestic violence since the official end of the war in November 1995. "They say it is between the hours of 6pm and 9pm, after the news is broadcast and families find themselves at home together, that the long-term psychological effects of the conflict are really felt," the centre adds.

"It isn't desirable to you what it's given, and you can't just forget, there's a price. When you have seen a guy on the street killed by snipers or a friend, you can't just forget, there's a price."

was one guy was on the front line with, I guess after the war, he would sleep with a pistol under his pillow. One night his wife came home and while she was putting dumplings on him, he woke up and said 'hey!'

Edith Ossadie, a family psychologist, believes the tension is exacerbated by shilte in Basma's social

...typical soldiers' position in the

...hand, in which every little bit counts.

There was one woman who came to the ethnic agency I work every week to ask for 'palm knives'. Ossadie says women—'Every time they were covered in bruises'. Her eyes, her face, her arms—in every place they shot and shot fall down that way. She said the women's tales contradicted

structure. "O, father, must be the changing role of women in the war. Many had to become self-sufficient. The Bosnian people are very traditional, and not all husbands could adjust to their wives in this role."

In order to feed themselves and their children, many women took on menial work while their husbands were away fighting. Even today, what they earn makes from candle-making, embroidery, or domestic cleaning with paid or unpaid clients.

For men without work, there are few exceptions to leave the house. Some are employed and those men are being beaten by their wives as being beaten by her man.

Every day for those men is the same. "Always goes, you go in the morning about taxes, rent, gas in the car, food was expensive but at least everything else was free. After that, we had to jog for everything."

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Soldier, soldier ...
"When you have
seen a guy killed
by snipers or a
grenade, you can't
just forget," says
Alman, who was
22 when he
want to war

visit local cafes, spending what money they have on coffee and cigarettes. Others turn to alcohol. Neffzard Dautovic is a primary school teacher in Grahovca. Once the scene of some of Bosnia's worst fighting, the area is now home to one of the country's largest refugee populations.

"There are many cases of heart weakness or high blood pressure related to people's experiences in this way," Daulovic says. "The women buy sedatives to feel better; the men drink. We have one student for whom we've had to find a foster family. Her father is depressed, so he drinks. He did not cook for her, she never had clean clothes or took a bath. Sometimes she

spent all night in the street because he had forgotten to come home. A child cannot survive that in winter.

Dautovic does not believe there are any non-Jews out-of-faith for Serbians, but she does believe that the war displaced former soldiers. In the three years since the Dayton Peace Accord was signed, there has been little rebuilding. Many families live in the cramped shelter of bombed-out apartment blocks, now barely standing. Few know whether they will stay.

Melissa was 14 when the war ended and her father, a civilian soldier, came home. Within weeks, he was

toring her to have sexual intercourse with him. "It was when my mother went out," Meljain says before she sobbing so hard she can no longer speak. She is four months pregnant and much of her day is spent huddled on a sofa in the local women's health centre, chain-smoking and crying.

Melje Basaiti is a consultant psychiatrist and joint clinical director at the Traumatic Stress Service at The Royal House Hospital in East Sussex.

On a recent visit to Italy, he said, "I was in a very bad manner in the Air Force." It was known that people coming home from fighting expect their wives to be *attentive to their problems*. They just can't hack it if they are not. They might drink, take drugs; they are more likely to get into trouble with the law. All these things can precipitate an increase in domestic violence. These days, our soldiers are given stress inoculation training and then sent back to Italy."

The Basotho soldiers were not army recruits but civilians called upon to defend their own homes. If there was no pre-conflict street inoculation and very little in the way of post-conflict psychiatric care.

There is a big difference in guys in their twenties or thirties here and men from abroad," Almir points out. "They are aggressive. If when I am out driving there is a small traffic mistake, immediately everybody

hangs out of their cars and there is
fight on the street. People from Ge-
many or France don't behave like this.
But it is different for us in Sarajevo.

Jealous? Me?

of any of us needed proof that jealousy is a totally irrational beast. We had, in fact, with the sorry case of 25-year-old Martha Beveridge. Stories of jealous wives slaying their errant husbands' souls, disowning his wife to the village or persecuting the new girlfriend are common currency, but Beveridge's angle is something new. It was not the new girlfriend — the home-breaker, the woman who ruined a perfectly fine romance by huddling in — she lamented: It was an old girlfriend. A friend, to be precise, who had broken up with the man in question eight years before Beveridge

doubt, save the case number for when you, too, move on to being ex, half the girls you see in wine bars, scolding with delight are comparing notes on a shared ex-boyfriend. My favorite comment from one of those girls was: "It's really boring when you're not in love with him, isn't he?"

Martha Beveridge felt compelled to follow around Glasgow for a while? Not her trial, not her enemy, but the object of her jealousy. She called her a tramp, her son a little bastard. She stole her handkerchiefs. She stole her appointments, was sitting there in her place, having her own hair done, having canceled the ex's date, having canceled the ex's

brooding. She sat wait, for her outsider work, three times a day sometimes. It lasted for 16 months. She doesn't do it any more, hasn't done it for two years. What, I wonder, does she think of her behavior now? Many of us have some hideous example of our emotions making good on something we can hardly bear to remember. Midlife letters sent, drinks thrown, paranoid delusions. The odd castoff, for most of us, it doesn't last 16 months or lead to court. I'm not excusing or belittling Beveridge's actions. What I'm saying is, but she isn't a bloody fool, not always do, once you've learned to put the past back where it belongs.

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